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MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2022

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Car blast in Moscow kills daughter of key Putin aide

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MOSCOW

The daughter of an influential Russian political theorist often referred to as "Putin's brain" was killed in a car bombing on the outskirts of Moscow, authorities said on Sunday.

The Moscow branch of the Russian Investigative Committee said preliminary information indicated that the 29-year-old TV commentator Daria Dugina was killed by an explosive planted in the SUV she was driving on Saturday night.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. But the bloodshed gave rise to suspicions that the intended target was her father, Alexander Dugin, a nationalist philosopher and writer.

Mr. Dugin is a prominent proponent of the "Russian world" concept, a spiritual and political ideology that emphasises traditional values, restoration of Russia's power and the unity of all ethnic Russians throughout the world. He is a vehement supporter of Russia's sending of troops into Ukraine.

The explosion took place as his daughter was returning from a cultural festival she had attended with him.

EDUCATIONPLUS ▸ PAGE 5

Facing govt. action, Huawei to dial down R&D operations

Decision comes after I-T searches and probes into 'national security' aspects

SUHASINI HAIDAR
MINI TEJASWI
NEW DELHI/ BENGALURU

Faced with income tax searches, exclusion from 5G telecom trials and increasing restrictions on research collaborations, Chinese telecom major Huawei is planning to downsize operations at its research and development (R&D) facilities in India, sources told *The Hindu* on Sunday. The move can affect many of the 3,500 jobs that the company has created in India over two decades.

The decision to consider downsizing and even shutting down some of the operations on its R&D campus just outside Bengaluru comes more than a year after Huawei had asserted it would continue its work in India "no matter what happens".

The sources said the rethink came after a series of government actions, including income tax searches and audits of 20 years of company records, investigations into "national security" aspects of Huawei's operations, and a look-out circular against Li Xiongwei, chief executive officer of Huawei Telecommunication India's marketing operations.

On August 12, Mr. Li appealed in court against the circular that prevented him from travelling abroad. A statement read out by his lawyer said, "I am a Chinese [national] and I am not a terrorist."

Income Tax authorities asked the court, which is expected to give its verdict this week, not to allow him to leave, as he may not return to face charges of tax fraud and non-compliance.

The Hindu contacted Huawei for a response on Sunday, but did not receive it.

Logging out: On the Huawei campus outside Bengaluru, which employs 3,500. • FILE PHOTO

Informal restrictions

According to multiple sources, Huawei managers are finding it difficult to continue R&D activities, as the government, including the Home and Education Ministries and others, have placed informal restrictions on any collaborations by "critical ecosystem players" such as universities, start-ups and analytics firms. Since the pandemic, the sources said, Huawei's experts from China are not able to get visas to visit India, ostensibly due to reciprocal restrictions by the Chinese government.

As a result, Huawei has already moved some of its critical projects back to China and redeployed Indian teams to existing projects. "It is almost like the end game for Huawei in India," said a telecom analyst based in Gurgaon. "Without 5G [exclusion from Indian 5G trials], the company is out of the telecom market to service 2G, 3G and 4G networks as it isn't on the Indian government's list of trusted partners."

In addition, while existing projects are being completed, no new projects are being contracted at present.

The case against Huawei is part of a series of government measures aimed at checking Chinese corporate influence in the country.

This comes especially after tensions between New Delhi and Beijing over transgressions of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) on the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh in April 2020.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Look-out notice against 8 in Delhi excise policy case

CBI says no circular issued against public servants so far

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Sunday issued look-out circulars (LoCs) against eight private persons who have been arraigned in the case pertaining to irregularities allegedly committed by Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and others in the now-withdrawn excise policy of the Delhi government.

The CBI clarified that no circular has been issued so far against any public servants named in the case.

An agency official has identified those facing the look-out circular as Vijay Nair, former chief executive officer of the Mumbai-based Only Much Louder, an entertainment and event management company; Amandeep Dhal, a director of Brindco Sales, Delhi; Sameer Mahendru, managing director of Indospirit Group, Delhi; Amit Arora, director, Buddy Retail Private Ltd., Delhi; Sunny Marwah, authorised signatory of Mahadev Liquors; Dinesh Arora; Arun Ramchandra Pillai; and Arjun Pandey.

In the first information report, the CBI has named 15 persons as accused. They include four public servants – Mr. Sisodia, the then Excise Commissioner Arva Gopi Krishna, Deputy Commissioner Anand Tiwari, and Assistant Commissioner Pankaj Bhatnagar.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Sisodia counters CBI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia attacked the BJP-led Central government on Sunday saying that the CBI, which is investigating his alleged role in illegalities revolving around the now-scrapped revamped Excise Policy, had issued a lookout circular (LOC) against him.

CBI sources confirmed that no LOC has been issued followed by the Aam Aadmi Party alleging that the Prime Minister's Office had "planted" such stories in the media and rescinded the notice after the "uproar of the public".

"After your raids failed, didn't beget anything, even a discrepancy worth a single paisa, you have issued a lookout notice against me saying that Manish Sisodia is nowhere to be found," Mr. Sisodia tweeted in Hindi on Sunday morning.

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Text & Context

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Viral cattle disease

7,300 The number of cattle who have died so far due to 'lumpy skin disease' in eight States. Lumpy skin disease is a contagious viral disease that affects cattle. It is transmitted by blood-feeding insects. It causes fever, nodules on the skin and can also lead to death. About 74,325 cattle have been affected in Punjab, 58,546 in Gujarat, 43,962 in Rajasthan, 6,385 in Jammu and Kashmir, 1,300 in Uttarakhand, 532 in Himachal Pradesh and 260 in Andaman & Nicobar. PTI

Fall in death claims

20 In %, the decline in LIC's death claims in the first quarter of this fiscal as the COVID impact ebbs. In the June quarter of the previous fiscal, settlement of death claims was to the tune of ₹7,111 crore, which for Q1 of this year was ₹5,743 crore, LIC Chairman M. R. Kumar said. The claim rates had been very stable before the pandemic, and there was a spike in claims in the last two years due to COVID said Dinesh Pant, Executive Director, LIC. While the figures are decreasing, it has not reached pre-COVID levels, Mr. Pant said. PTI

Inflows in equities

44,500 In ₹ crore, the amount invested by foreign investors in Indian equities in August so far amid softening of inflation in the U.S. and falling dollar index. This was way higher than a net investment of nearly ₹5,000 crore by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in July, data with depositories showed. FPIs had turned net buyers for the first time in July after nine straight months of massive outflows, which started in October last year. PTI

International students

25 In %, the extra seats that would be created for foreign students in universities and higher education institutions across the country. The supernumerary seats will be created over and above the total sanctioned strength and the decision regarding these seats will be taken by concerned higher educational institutions according to specific guidelines issued by the regulatory bodies considering the infrastructure, faculty and other requirements. These students do not have to go through the entrance process used for admissions in India. PTI

Somalia hotel siege

21 The death toll from a devastating 30-hour siege by Al-Shabaab jihadists at a hotel in Somalia's capital Mogadishu. The attack was the biggest in Mogadishu since Somalia's new President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud took office and underscored the challenge of trying to crush the 15-year insurrection by the Islamist group. The militants were driven out of Mogadishu in 2011, but still control swathes of countryside and retain the ability to launch deadly strikes, often targeting hotels and restaurants. The deadliest attack occurred in October 2017. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

Delhi Police's use of facial recognition technology

When was FRT first introduced in Delhi? What are the concerns with using the technology on a mass scale?

THE GIST

- RTI responses received by the Internet Freedom Foundation reveal that the Delhi Police treats matches of above 80% similarity generated by its facial recognition technology system as positive results. Facial recognition is an algorithm based technology which creates a digital map of the face by identifying and mapping an individual's facial features, which it then matches against the database to which it has access.
- The Delhi Police first obtained FRT for the purpose of tracing and identifying missing children as per the direction of the Delhi High Court in *Sadhan Haldar vs NCT of Delhi*.
- Extensive research into FRT has revealed that its accuracy rates fall starkly based on race and gender. This can result in a false positive, where a person is misidentified as someone else, or a false negative where a person is not verified as themselves. The technology can also be used as a tool to facilitate state sponsored mass surveillance.

ANUSHKA JAIN
GYAN PRAKASH TRIPATHI

The story so far: Right to Information (RTI) responses received by the Internet Freedom Foundation, a New-Delhi based digital rights organisation, reveal that the Delhi Police treats matches of above 80% similarity generated by its facial recognition technology (FRT) system as positive results.

Why is the Delhi Police using facial recognition technology?

The Delhi Police first obtained FRT for the purpose of tracing and identifying missing children. According to RTI responses received from the Delhi Police, the procurement was authorised as per a 2018 direction of the Delhi High Court in *Sadhan Haldar vs NCT of Delhi*. However, in 2018 itself, the Delhi Police submitted in the Delhi High Court that the accuracy of the technology procured by them was only 2% and "not good".

Things took a turn after multiple reports came out that the Delhi Police was using FRT to surveil the anti-CAA protests in 2019. In 2020, the Delhi Police stated in an RTI response that, though they obtained FRT as per the *Sadhan Haldar* direction which related specifically to finding missing children, they were using FRT for police investigations. The widening of the purpose for FRT use clearly demonstrates an instance of 'function creep' wherein a technology or system gradually widens its scope from its original purpose to encompass and fulfil wider functions. As per available information, the Delhi Police has consequently used FRT for investigation purposes and also specifically during the 2020 northeast Delhi riots, the 2021 Red Fort violence, and the 2022 Jahangirpuri riots.

What is facial recognition?

Facial recognition is an algorithm-based technology which creates a digital map of the face by identifying and mapping an individual's facial features, which it then matches against the database to which it has access. It can be used for two purposes: firstly, 1:1 verification of identity wherein the facial map is obtained for the purpose of matching it against the person's photograph on a database to authenticate their identity. For example, 1:1 verification is used to unlock phones. However, increasingly it is being used to provide access to any benefits or government schemes. Secondly, there is the 1:n identification of identity wherein the facial map is obtained from a photograph or video and then matched against the entire database to identify the person in the photograph or video. Law enforcement agencies such as the Delhi Police usually procure FRT for 1:n identification.

For 1:n identification, FRT generates a probability or a match score between the suspect who is to be identified and the available database of identified criminals. A list of possible matches are generated on the basis of their likelihood to be the correct match with corresponding match scores. However, ultimately it is a human analyst who selects the final probable match from the list of matches generated by FRT. According to Internet Freedom Foundation's Project Panoptic, which tracks the spread of FRT in India, there are at least 124 government authorised FRT projects in the country.

Why is the use of FRT harmful?

India has seen the rapid deployment of FRT in recent years, both by the Union and State governments, without putting in place any law to regulate their use. The use of FRT presents two issues: issues related to misidentification due to inaccuracy of the technology and issues related to mass surveillance due to misuse of the technology. Extensive research into the technology has revealed that its accuracy rates fall starkly based on race and gender. This can result in a false positive, where a person is misidentified as someone else, or a false negative where a person is not verified as themselves. Cases of a false positive result can lead to bias against the individual who has been misidentified. In 2018, the American Civil Liberties Union revealed that Amazon's facial recognition technology, Rekognition, incorrectly identified 28 Members of Congress as people who have been arrested for a crime. Of the 28, a disproportionate number were people of colour. Also in 2018, researchers Joy Buolamwini and Timnit Gebru found that facial recognition systems had higher error rates while identifying women and people of colour, with the error rate being the highest while identifying women of colour. The use of this technology by law enforcement authorities has already led to three people in the U.S. being wrongfully arrested. On the other hand, cases of false negative results can lead to exclusion of the individual from accessing essential schemes which may use FRT as means of providing access. One example of such exclusion is the failure of the biometric based authentication under Aadhaar which has led to many people being excluded from receiving essential government services which in turn has led to starvation deaths.

However, even if accurate, this technology can result in irreversible harm as it can be used as a tool to facilitate state sponsored mass surveillance. At present, India does not have a data protection law or a FRT specific regulation to protect against misuse. In such a legal vacuum, there are no safeguards to ensure that authorities use FRT only for the purposes that they have been authorised to, as is the case with the Delhi Police. FRT can enable the constant surveillance of an individual resulting in the violation of their fundamental right to privacy.

What did the 2022 RTI responses by Delhi Police reveal?

The RTI responses dated July 25, 2022 were shared by the Delhi Police after Internet Freedom Foundation filed an appeal before the Central Information Commission for obtaining the information after being denied multiple times by the Delhi Police. In their response, the Delhi Police has revealed that matches above 80% similarity are treated as positive results while matches below 80% similarity are treated as false positive results which require additional "corroborative evidence". It is unclear why 80% has been chosen as the threshold between positive and false positive. There is no justification provided to support the Delhi Police's assertion that an above 80% match is sufficient to assume the results are correct. Secondly, the categorisation of below 80% results as false positive instead of negative shows that the Delhi Police may still further investigate below 80% results. Thus, people who share familial facial features, such as in extended families or communities, could end up being targeted. This could result in targeting of communities who have been historically overpoliced and have faced discrimination at the hands of law enforcement authorities.

The responses also mention that the Delhi Police is matching the photographs/videos

against photographs collected under Section three and four of the Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920, which has now been replaced by the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022. This Act allows for wider categories of data to be collected from a wider section of people, i.e., "convicts and other persons for the purposes of identification and investigation of criminal matters". It is feared that the Act will lead to overbroad collection of personal data in violation of internationally recognised best practices for the collection and processing of data. This revelation raises multiple concerns as the use of facial recognition can lead to wrongful arrests and mass surveillance resulting in privacy violations. Delhi is not the only city where such surveillance is ongoing. Multiple cities, including Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, and Lucknow are rolling out "Safe City" programmes which implement surveillance infrastructures to reduce gender-based violence, in the absence of any regulatory legal frameworks which would act as safeguards.

Anushka Jain is an Associate Policy Counsel and Gyan Prakash Tripathi is a Policy Trainee at Internet Freedom Foundation, New Delhi

EXPLAINER

Explained | The controversy around Nepal's new citizenship law

What gender disparities have been flagged in the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2006?

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

The story so far: On August 16, Nepal President Bidhya Devi Bhandari sent back the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2006 to the Pratinidhi Sabha (House of Representatives), the lower house of the Nepal Parliament, urging the members to reconsider the Act. Ahead of the election season, this clash between the President and the Pratinidhi Sabha has ignited a heated debate over the question of citizenship in Nepal.

What is the issue of citizenship in Nepal about?

Nepal transitioned into a democracy beginning with the fall of the monarchy in 2006 and the subsequent election of the Maoist government in 2008. The emergence of the multiparty system was followed by the adoption of a constitution on September 20, 2015. All Nepalese citizens born before this date got naturalised citizenship. But their children remained without citizenship as that was to be guided by a federal law which has not yet been framed. This amendment Act is expected to pave the way to citizenship for many such stateless youth as well as their parents.

What are the issues with the Act?

The main criticism against the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2006 is that it goes against established parameters of gender justice. A cursory reading also reveals contradictions among various sections of the law. According to Article 11(2b), a person born to a father or a mother with Nepalese citizenship can get citizenship by descent. Article 11(5) of the constitution says a person who is born to a Nepalese mother (who has lived in the country) and an unidentified father will also get citizenship by descent. But this section appears humiliating for a mother as she has to declare that her husband is unidentified for the child to be eligible for citizenship. In case of a Nepalese father, such declarations are not required.

Article 11(7) which says that a child born to a Nepalese mother and a father holding a foreign citizenship can get "naturalised citizenship" in accordance with the laws of Nepal appears to contradict Article 11(2b). It places a condition of permanent residency on the mother (and the child) which will determine the grant of citizenship for the child.

Why has the President refused to sign the Act?

Ms. Bhandari is the first female President of Nepal. Her refusal to sign the Act has drawn attention to certain sections in the constitution that thrusts greater responsibility on women. For example, Article 11 (5) says that a person who is born to a Nepalese mother and an unidentified father can be granted citizenship by descent. Next, it says that in case the unidentified father turns out to be a foreigner, the citizenship by descent would be converted to naturalised citizenship. Furthermore, it supports punitive action against the mother if the father is found later.

Why has the amendment been framed thus?

There is an unarticulated concern in the orthodox sections of the country that as Nepalese men, particularly from the Terai region, continue to marry women from northern India, Nepalese identity would be undermined. Because of this "Beti-Roti" (Nepalese men marrying Indian women) issue, many women could not become citizens of Nepal as they were subjected to the infamous seven-year cooling off period before they could apply for citizenship in Nepal. As such women were stateless, children of such families were also often found to be without Nepalese citizenship. However, the new amendments have done away with the cooling off period for these stateless women. This will benefit the children of such families where the mother and children remained stateless for years.

This has however created a division among the major political parties. The Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) wanted to retain the cooling off period while the ruling Nepali Congress and the Maoist party of Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda supported the removal of the cooling off period. It is understood that the Prime Minister of Nepal Sher Bahadur Deuba will go to the upcoming polls with the Act as the achievement of his government despite opposition from President Bhandari who took charge during the Prime Ministerial tenure of K. P. Sharma Oli.

Despite support from the Madhesi parties (parties formed from the Madhesi movement which advocated greater representation and equal citizenship rights for the people of the Terai region of Nepal) , the inter-ethnic nature of the citizenship dispute has come to the surface because of the controversy triggered by President Bhandari's rejection.

What is the road ahead for the Act?

As of Thursday, Nepal Citizenshipless Struggle Committee held a protest in Kathmandu demanding that President Bhandari should ratify the Act that was passed again by the Pratinidhi Sabha for the second time. They argue that women of Indian origin, who were deprived of rights because of the cooling off period and bureaucratic procrastination, and their children will be stuck in a stateless condition if the Act is not recognised by the President's office.

THE GIST

- On August 16, the Nepal President sent back the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2006 to the lower house of the Nepal Parliament urging the members to reconsider the Act.
- The main criticism against the Act is that it goes against gender justice. It says that a person who is born to a Nepalese mother and an unidentified father can be granted citizenship by descent. But if the father is a foreigner, the citizenship by descent would be converted to naturalised citizenship.
- However, people of the Terai region and Madhesi parties support the Act.

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577 private hospitals get notices over extra COVID-19 charges

A COVID-19 patient being taken to a hospital in Bengaluru. •FILE PHOTO

Of the ₹18.87 cr. allegedly received by private hospitals, ₹1.58 crore has been returned to patients' families

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Notices have been issued to 577 private hospitals by the Health Department following complaints that they received money from the government while collecting extra amount from COVID-19 patients. A release said ₹1.58 crore has been returned to the families of 403 patients.

Under the Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka scheme, steps were taken to treat COVID-19 patients in private hospitals on referral basis. The treatment cost was borne by Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust. But some private hospitals, besides collecting the amount from the patients, also got the money from the trust, the department has alleged.

When there were complaints about this, Health Minister K. Sudhakar instructed officials to conduct a review and issue notices. Accordingly, notices have been issued to 577 private hospitals so far.

A total of ₹18.87 crore was allegedly received by private hospitals. Out of this, ₹1.58 crore has already been returned to the patients' families, while in some cases, the complaints have been transferred to the district-level public grievances committee for further scrutiny, the release added.

Dr. Sudhakar said, "This is a clear warning given by the government to private hospitals."

CET-2022 document verification to begin today

Though it will be in hybrid mode this year, rank holders in Bengaluru will have to go to the KEA office

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

After a delay, the document verification for Common Entrance Test (CET) 2002 rank holders will begin on Monday. This year, the document verification process will be in hybrid mode. However, rank holders in Bengaluru will have to visit the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) office for the document verification.

The KEA has released the document verification schedule and it will be held in three sessions on the basis of the CET rank.

Students have to get their study certificates signed by the Block Education Officers (BEOs), who will then upload them onto the software. The KEA is already sent the candidate details to the respective taluk BEOs.

In Bengaluru, there are around 40,000 CET rank holders and only eight BEOs. A majority of the candidates had failed to mention the particular taluk in the city and are also facing some confusion regarding which BEO they have to visit for document verification, officials said. In order to avoid inconvenience, KEA is conducting the document verification at the KEA office, Malleswaram, for the Bengaluru candidates.

Ramya S., executive director, KEA, told to *The Hindu*, "One-third of the CET rank holders are in Bengaluru. So, we are conducting online document verification for the Bengaluru candidates in KEA office. We will get all the eight BEOs in Bengaluru at the KEA office. This is being done so as to spare students the confusion regarding which BEO they have to visit. In order to avoid inconvenience, we thought we could get all of them to KEA."

"Document verification for reservation by the Revenue Department is already under way. Even as the document verification process continues, we will follow the High Court directions on the case filed by CET-2021 repeaters who have been arguing against KEA's decision not to include their PU marks in calculating CET ranks," she added.

A file photo of CET counselling in Bengaluru.

The schedule

- Document verification will be held in **three sessions** on the basis of CET rank
- **On Monday,** engineering rank candidates' documents will be verified
- In the 1st session, documents of engineering candidates of rank **1** to **1,800** will be verified from 9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Verification of documents for rank **1,801** to **3,600** will be in 2nd session from 11.15 a.m. to 1.15 p.m.
- Document verification for candidates of rank **3,601** to **5,000**, will be in 3rd session from 2 p.m.
- The process will continue up to **September 7**

Activists slam opposition to Western Ghats ESA draft notification

People living in the eco-sensitive areas are not going to lose their property rights, say environmentalists. •FILE PHOTO

'Misinformation being spread to create sense of fear among people living in eco-sensitive areas'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The United Conservation Movement (UCM) has termed the opposition to the draft notification of the Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA) in the Western Ghats by politicians and ministers in the State government as one with malafide intentions and said it goes against the interest of protecting the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats. The UCM has accused the politicians of giving false narration about the ESA and thereby misleading people living in the area.

"The State government's machinery is tirelessly working to spread false propaganda. This has been the sixth such attempt in foiling the attempt made to finalise the eco-sensitive areas. People living in the eco-sensitive areas are not going to lose their property rights. Misinformation is being spread to create a sense of fear among them by the politicians," said Joseph Hoover, president of UCM and former member of State Wildlife Board.

He further said, "There is no prohibition for ongoing agricultural and horticultural activities. People living in the identified area can construct and repair their houses, vehicular movements not barred, running of hospitals and health care centers have no impact. However, activities such as mining, new thermal power plants, highly polluting red category industries, building and construction of above 20,000 sqm, area development projects above 50 hectares and built-up area above 1.5 lakh sq.m. are prohibited."

A UCM release states that in Karnataka, only 33% of the total villages listed in taluks located in Western Ghats were designated as ESA villages. The UCM has demanded the translation of ESA draft notification into vernacular languages such as Kannada, Malayalam, Konkani and other languages for the consumption of local people.

They have also demanded that special status should be accorded to natives of Western Ghats on the lines of North Eastern states, the Karnataka Land Reforms Act should be amended prohibiting outsiders from owning land in these areas, measures should be taken recycle and reuse waters in the towns located in the Western Ghat section to avoid discharge of polluted water into rivers and other streams. The UCM has also opposed the proposed widening of highways in Kodagu and building of new rail lines in the eco-sensitive areas.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my Client **Mr. Hitesh Sangeetham** S/o Mr. S. Sudhakara Rao, R/at No.8, 4th Cross, 1st Main, Outer Ring Road, MSR Layout, Marathahalli, Bangaluru-560037 has entered into an Agreement for Sale with respect to land bearing Survey No. 92/2, measuring to an extent of 24 guntas out of 1 Acre 14 Guntas of land, situated at Kattriguppe Village, Sorjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, with its present owners.

Any person or persons asserting any rights, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claim against the Schedule Property or the documents thereof or objecting to such sale in favour of my client should write to the undersigned **within fifteen days** of the issuance of this Public Notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regards to the Schedule Property or any part thereof, after which period my client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regards to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of agricultural Land bearing Survey No. 92/2, measuring to an extent of 24 guntas out of 1 Acre 14 Guntas of Land, situated at Kattriguppa Village, Sorjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on the: **EAST:** Nakash Road / Gomala; **WEST:** Property belongs to L. Babu Reddy; **SOUTH:** Property belongs to Muniyamma; **NORTH:** Remaining portion of vendors property;

JOHN PAUL. A Advocate
Unit No. 113, 1st Floor No. 9, MOTA CHAMBERS Millers Road, Vasanth Nagar Bangalore-560051.
(Odd Cunningham Road)
Opp. High Grounds
Police Station. Ph: +91 8496997937
Email: johnpauladvocate@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

My client has negotiated to purchase the schedule property from **Smt. NARYANAMMA**, W/o Late. Ramakrishna, previously residing at No.153, Muskam 'D' Block, Bangarpet, KGF, Kolar District-563113 and now residing at No.38/11, Banner Street, Neelasandra Cross, Bengaluru-560047, who has represented that she is having clear and marketable title over the schedule property.

Any person claiming to have any rights or claims or objections, may lodge their objections or claims along with supporting documents with the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

If no objections or claims are received within the prescribed time, my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction. If any objections or claims have lodged beyond the prescribed period that shall not be reckoned and it shall be deemed to be that all objections and claims by whatsoever are waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential Site bearing Site No.1944 (One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty Four), measuring East to West 9 (Nine) Mts., and North to South 6 (Six) Mts., aggregating 54 (Fifty Four) Square Meters, situated at Banashankari 6th Stage, 4th 'T' Block, Bengaluru and bounded on: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Site No.1936, **North by:** Site No.1945, **South by:** Site No.1943.

K. Nagaraju, Advocate,
C/o. L.Puttaraju, Advocate and Notary Public, Office: Shop No.4, #32, Aravinda Complex, Vivekananda Colony, J.P.Nagar Post, Kanakapura Main Road (Metro Rail Pillar E.P.44), Bengaluru-560078.
Mob: 72048 72666, E-mail: nagaraj_nisarga1958@yahoo.co.in
Date: 20.8.2022.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XIII ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-22)
O.S No. 26547/2020
Hg:19/09/2022

BETWEEN
ICICI Bank Ltd Having its Registered Office at ICICI Tower, Near Chakli Circle Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390007 And its branch office at Mythri Center, #4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068 ...Plaintiff
AND
Roshan Rasaily ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Roshan Rasaily,
Aged about 38 Years,
S/o. Sahabir Rasaily,
R/a: #42, Akshaynagar Bus Stop, 5th Cross, 1st Block, Ashwini Medical Building, 2nd Floor, TC Palya Main Road, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore 560016

Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of Rs. 4,27,584.67/- (as on 28/10/2020) along with interest at 24% p.a. and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the 13th Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore (CCH-22) in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on the 19.09.2022 at 11 A.M. take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this court, this the 18th day of August, 2022.

Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore

Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No. 109, Commerce House,
9/1, Cunningham Road,
Bangalore-560052

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 72th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-73)
O.S. NO. 26446/2021

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered Office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Corporate Office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400 051 and its Branch Office at Mystree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 067 ...**Plaintiff**
And
Sri. U E Kumara ...**Defendant**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Sri. U E Kumara,
S/o Sri. Erappa, No. 366/2, Nityananda High School, Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore-560 105

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of **Rs. 5,33,735/- (Rupees Five Lakh Thirty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Five Only)** together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 72th Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-73) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 12.09.2022 at 11.00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 18.08.2022.

By Order of the Hon'ble Court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court, Mayohall Unit At Bangalore

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
S. A. Associates, No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

WE, C .P Ballappa and Bhavna Kuttappa, both residing at F-204, Esteem Royale, Bangalore-47 have changed our minor son's name from Cariappa Codanda to Samarth Belliappa vide Affidavit No: KA2483064579747U dated 10/03/2022 sworn before Notary A.Gerard, Blore.

I, APARAJITA Jibantosh Dasgupta , W/O. Subodh Balakrishnan, R/O. B2-301, RIFCO Aruna Apts, 4th Cr,Konenagrahara, Blr-17, have changed name to Aparajita Dasgupta vide affvt dtd 18/08/22

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XIII ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-22)
O.S No. 26543/2020
Hg:19/09/2022

BETWEEN
ICICI Bank Ltd Having its Registered office at ICICI Tower, Near Chakli Circle Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390007 And its branch office at Mythri Center, #4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068 ...Plaintiff
AND
Rajashekar J ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Rajashekar J,
Aged about 50 Years,
S/o Jacob, R/a: #14, 18th Cross, Bagalagunte Bangalore 560073

Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of Rs. 5,68,499.38/-(as on 29/10/2020) along with interest at 24% p.a. and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the 13th Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore (CCH-22) in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on the 19.09.2022 at 11A.M. take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this court, this the 18th day of August, 2022.

Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore

Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No. 109, Commerce House,
9/1, Cunningham Road,
Bangalore-560052

BUSINESS OFFER

ARE YOU Need Business Loan Minimum 1Crore & Above CI : 8122109759

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 72nd ADDL CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-73)
O.S. NO. 25745/2022

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered Office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051 and its Branch Office at Mystree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068
Represented by its Collection Manager & POA Holder Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa ...**Plaintiff**
And
Fairoz ...**Defendant**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Fairoz, S/o. Sri. Abdul,
Aged about 39 years, No. 87, 2nd Floor, Arvind Layout, Vinayaka Nagar, JP Nagar 5th Phase, Bangalore - 560 078

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of Rs. 3,45,314/- (Rupees Three Lakh Forty Five Thousand Three Hundred Fourteen Only) together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 72nd Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-73) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 12-09-2022 at 11:00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 18-08-2022

BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT
DEPUTY REGISTRAR
CITY CIVIL COURT, MAYOHALL UNIT BANGALORE

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
SA Associates,
No. 10, 7th Cross,
Victoria Layout,
Bangalore - 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-21)
O.S. NO. 26438/2021

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered Office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Corporate Office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400 051 and its Branch Office at Mystree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 067
Represented by its Collection Manager & POA Holder Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa ...**Plaintiff**
And
Mr. Noor Mohammed Liyakathulla ...**Defendant**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Mr. Noor Mohammed Liyakathulla,
S/o. Mr. Ummar Saleem, Aged about 47 years, No. 42, 1st Floor, Nimhans Layout, 8th B Main, BTM 1st Stage, Beside Galaxy Apartment, Rahim Manzil, Bangalore- 560 029

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of **Rs. 6,73,962/- (Rupees Six Lakh Seventy Three Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Two Only)** together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-21) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 26.09.2022 at 11.00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 05.08.2022.

By Order of the Hon'ble Court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court, Mayohall Unit At Bangalore

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
S. A. Associates, No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE IVth ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-21)
O.S. NO. 25594/2020

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered Office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Corporate Office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400 051 and its Branch Office at Mystree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068
Represented by its POA Holder Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa ...**Plaintiff**
And
Tongkhohao Mate ...**Defendant**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Tongkhohao Mate, S/o. Mr. Jamkhokhai Mate, Aged about 38 years, C/o Pushpa Rani YR, H.No. 22, 4th A Cross, Opp. Bottle Factory, Viveknagar, Fairland Shop, Bangalore- 560 047

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of **Rs. 5,34,350/- (Rupees Five Lakh Thirty Four Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Only)** together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble IVth Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-21) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 26/09/2022 at 11.00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 10/08/2022.

By Order of the Hon'ble Court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court, Mayohall Unit At Bangalore

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
S. A. Associates, No. 10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LXXII ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE
Mayo Hall Unit (CCH-73)
O.S No. 25687/2020
Hg:13/09/2022

BETWEEN
ICICI Bank Ltd Having its Registered office at Land mark, Race Course Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara-39000 And its branch office at Mythri Center, #4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068 ...Plaintiff
AND
Raju Chetry ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Raju Chetry,
Aged about 28 years,
S/o Tek Bahdur Chetry, R/a: #173, 2nd Floor, 3rd Cross, 3rd "D" Main, Viveknagar, Further Extension, Bangalore 560047

Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of Rs. 2,84,418.97/- (as on 7/02/2020) along with interest at 24% p.a. and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the 72nd Addl. City Civil & Session Judge, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore [CCH-73] in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on the 13-09-2022 at 11 A.M. take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this court, this the 6th day of August, 2022.

By the order of the Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore

Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No. 109, Commerce House,
9/1, Cunningham Road,
Bangalore-560052

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE IVth ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-21)
O.S. NO. 26607/2019

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered Office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Corporate Office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400 051 and its Branch Office at Mystree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068 ...**Plaintiff**
And
Raziya Sultana ...**Defendant**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Raziya Sultana, S/o. Shaik Fayaz No. 74, 1st Floor, Seef Residency, No. 11, Royal Lake Front Residency, JP Nagar, 8th Phase, Bangalore- 560 076

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of **Rs. 3,49,281/- (Rupees Three Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Eighty One Only)** together with interest @ 18% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble IVth Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-21) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 12.09.2022 at 11.00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 01/08/2022.

By Order of the
Hon'ble Court
Assisstant Registrar,
City Civil Court,
Mayohall Unit At Bangalore

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
S. A. Associates, No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE IV ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-21)
O.S No. 25305/2019
Hg:08/09/2022

BETWEEN
ICICI Bank Ltd, Having its Registered office
ICICI Tower, Near Chakli Circle Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390007
And its branch office at Mythri Center, #4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068 ...Plaintiff
AND
Gangmei Chunkeilung ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Gangmei Chunkeilung
Aged about 30 years,
S/o Alin Gangmei,
R/a: No. 23/9, Ground Floor, 14th "B" Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore 560068

Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of Rs. 6,01,246.63/- (as on 04/10/2018) along with interest at 18% p.a. and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the IV Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore [CCH-21] in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on the 08.09.2022 at 11 A.M. take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this court, this the 18th day of August, 2022.

Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore

Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No. 109, Commerce House,
9/1, Cunningham Road,
Bangalore- 560052

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 72nd ADDL CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-73)
O.S. NO. 25518/2022

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered office at Land Mark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051 and its branch office at Mystree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068
Represented by its Collection Manager & POA Holder Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa ...**Plaintiff**
And
Sri. C. Murali Krishna ...**Defendant**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Sri. C. Murali Krishna,
S/o. Sri. Changal Rayudu Chilamkuri, Aged about 34 years, No. 81, New Building No.1008,1st Floor, BESCOM Line, Virobhi Nagar, Avalahalli, Old Madras Road, Near Toyota Shoreroom, Bangalore - 560 049

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of **Rs.13,47,251/-(Rupees Thirteen Lakh Forty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Fifty One Only)** together with interest **@ 24% p.a.,** cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 72nd Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge **(CCH-73)** in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on **09-09-2022** at **11:00 a.m.** failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this **18-08-2002**

BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court, Mayohall Unit Bangalore

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
SA Associates,
No.10, 7th Cross,
Victoria Layout,
Bangalore - 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 72nd ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-73)
O.S. NO. 25523/2022

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered Office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051 and its Branch Office at Mystree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore - 560 068
Represented by its Collection Manager & POA Holder Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa ...**Plaintiff**
And
Sri. V. Murugadas & Another ...**Defendant**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT NO. 1 & 2

To,
1. Sri. V. Murugadas,
S/o. Sri. Vibeeshanan NMA, Aged about 63 years, No. 7, Ground Floor, 27th Main, 3rd Cross, Behind HDFC, IRR Branch, VGS Layout, Ejipura, Bangalore - 560 047
2. Smt. M. Vijayashankari,
D/o. Sri. Maadhuchetty Nagaraj, Aged about 56 years, No. 7, Ground Floor, 27th Main, 3rd Cross, Behind HDFC, IRR Branch, VGS Layout, Ejipura, Bangalore - 560 047

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of Rs. 8,10,692/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Ten Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Two Only) together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 72nd Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-73) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 09-09-2022 at 11:00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 18-08-2002

By Order Of The Hon'ble Court Deputy Registrar City Civil Court, Mayohall Unit Bangalore

Advocate For Plaintiff
SA Associates,
No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE IVth ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BANGALORE (CCH-21)
O.S. No. 25997/2020
Hg :27/09/2022

BETWEEN
ICICI Bank Ltd, Having its Registered Officer ICICI Tower, Near Chakli Circle Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390007 And its Branch Office at Mythri Center, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560 068 ...Plaintiff
AND
Bete Rangaiah & Anr. ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANTS

1. Bete Rangaiah,
Aged about 40 Years,
S/o Lakshmaiah,
R/a. 20, Lakshmipura Post Dasanapura Hobli Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore 562162 ...DEFENDANT No. 1

Also Available At:
No.440, Privanka Nilaya, 12th Cross, Puttaiah Road, Rushabhavati Nagar, Kamakshipalya, Bangalore 560079

2. Manjunath,
Aged about Major
S/o. Lakshmaiah,
R/a. No. 636, Manjunatha Colony, Near Vidyapeeta Circle, Bangalore- 560 028
...DEFENDANT No. 2

Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of Rs. 3,07,710.097/- (as on 18/08/2020) along with interest at 24% p.a. and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the 4th Addl. City Civil & Session Judge, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore [CCH-21] in person or by a leader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on the 27.09.2022 at 11A.M take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this court, this the 18th day of August 2022.

Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court, Mayo Hall Unit Bangalore

Advocate for Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No. 109, Commerce House,
9/1, Cunningham Road,
Bangalore-560 052

THE HINDU
Text & Context

CACHE

The OpenSea tale on the future of NFTs

How has the NFT industry dealt with the fallout of the crypto market? What are some of the issues users had with OpenSea?

THE GIST

- OpenSea is said to be one of the largest NFT marketplaces. Earlier this year, the platform was valued at over $13 billion after raising around $300 million in venture capital.
- In January OpenSea's monthly volumes for Ethereum shot over $4.8 billion. However, after the crypto crash in May, both Bitcoin and Ether fell and more than halved in value during the first six months of 2022. Daily transactions on OpenSea have been gradually declining since then.
- On July 14, OpenSea co-founder and CEO Devin Finzer announced that it was a "hard day" for the company, which was firing 20% of its team.

SAHANA VENUGOPAL

The story so far: The writing is on the wall for the crypto market. Popular cryptocurrencies have nosedived after a meteoric rise last year. Several crypto exchanges laid off a significant portion of their employees and lending platforms are struggling to remain solvent. Being part of this ecosystem, non-fungible tokens, or NFTs also took a hit as a result of the crypto fallout.

What are NFTs?

NFTs are digital assets whose ownership is verified through transaction records stored on blockchains. Art work, digital avatars and accessorised monkeys are some of the most commonly traded NFTs. OpenSea is said to be one of the largest NFT marketplaces in existence. Earlier this year, the platform was valued at over $13 billion after raising around $300 million in venture capital. By August 2022, based on Ethereum blockchain data, OpenSea was used by two million traders who transacted at least once on the network.

What is OpenSea's place in the sector?

OpenSea was built on the Ethereum blockchain to trade NFTs. The digital goods sales on the platform jumped in August 2021, according to analytics platform Dune Analytics. In November, Bitcoin and Ether hit their all-time high as the market reached a state of ecstasy. OpenSea monthly volumes soared between December 2021 and January 2022. In January OpenSea's monthly volumes for Ethereum shot over $4.8 billion. In February and March, monthly transactions plunged before rising again in April. That recovery was brief as the collapse of TerraUSD [UST] stablecoin and its partner coin LUNA wiped billions of dollars in shareholder wealth off the market in May 2022. As a result, both Bitcoin and Ether fell and more than halved in value during the first six months of 2022. Daily transactions on OpenSea have been gradually declining since then.

OpenSea's June trade volume dropped to about $695 million. It further dropped about 30% in July to $528 million. Adding to the heavy loss in volume, the number of NFTs sold (Ethereum blockchain) have also been declining since January 2022, which saw the sale of more than two million NFTs. July 2022 saw around 1,702,302 NFTs sold at the time of writing. However, this followed increases in May and June 2022. But NFT trades on OpenSea for the Polygon blockchain show even fewer transactions. Monthly volumes fell to about $6.4 million from nearly $80 million between January and July 2022.

Can users trust OpenSea?

While proponents of NFTs laud these assets as a way to revolutionise the art scene or explore new models of proving ownership, OpenSea users complain of excessive downtime on the platform. There have also been reports of breaches and security vulnerabilities. In one such instance, an employee of the platform's email delivery vendor had caused the security breach.

NFTs are digital assets whose ownership is verified through transaction records stored on blockchains. Art work, digital avatars and accessorised monkeys are some of the most commonly traded NFTs

"We recently learned that an employee of Customer.io, our email delivery vendor, misused their employee access to download and share email addresses – provided by OpenSea users and subscribers to our newsletter – with an unauthorised external party. If you have shared your email with OpenSea in the past, you should assume you were impacted. We are working with Customer.io in their ongoing investigation, and we have reported this incident to law enforcement," said OpenSea on June 29.

In late February 2022, at least 17 OpenSea users were targeted by an alleged phishing attempt. There are also ethics-related issues. A number of artists have complained that OpenSea users frequently steal their work, mint them as NFTs, and begin profiting from them without their consent. These artists have lambasted the NFT platform for not doing enough to combat art theft and also making the stolen art takedown process troublesome for non-crypto users.

Can influencers do it all for NFTs?

Celebrities played a key role in boosting NFT sales, either by buying their own such assets or minting them and putting them up for sale on platforms like OpenSea. One of the best known OpenSea collections was musician Shawn Mendes' collaboration with Genies to offer NFT versions of himself, and virtual accessories such as his guitar, a shirt, and even a decorative vest. One such NFT was priced at 5.5 ETH (over $10,000 on August 19). But its last sale was 0.6942 ETH (less than $2,000 on August 19). Coming to mainstream fame, OpenSea and Twitter Blue partnered in order to let Twitter users upload their Ethereum-minted NFTs and have them verified with a special hexagonal frame. In a matter of days, if not hours, Twitter evolved to show which celebrities and influencers were still firmly behind the NFT boom.

Yet while celebrity endorsement or digital collectibles of celebrities may lead to brief surges in popularity, they are far from what is needed to keep the industry financially viable.

Is OpenSea falling at last?

Perhaps no development can better encapsulate the rise and fall of OpenSea than the incident which took place on July 14.

The crypto bull run and the NFT boom of 2021 saw Web3 companies launching into a hiring spree in order to scale operations at a rapid pace. However, as Bitcoin and Ether more than halved in value after the May 2022 crash, a long list of global crypto companies began firing huge sections of their workforce.

On July 14, OpenSea co-founder and CEO Devin Finzer announced that it was a "hard day" for the company, which was firing 20% of its team.

"Nevertheless, the reality is that we have entered an unprecedented combination of crypto winter and broad macroeconomic instability, and we need to prepare the company for the possibility of a prolonged downturn," he said in a message shared on Twitter.

Mr. Finzer stressed on OpenSea's strong balance sheet and its ability to survive the ongoing crypto winter with the available runway. He claimed OpenSea to be in "an even better position to capture what will soon become the largest market on the planet."

While many might conclude that the era of NFTs is over and it's time to exit their positions and give up their creations, there are always others in the world of crypto who believe that panic sellers are giving them generous discounts.

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Have you met the editor concerned?

My language has been improving. Has yours?

S. UPENDRAN

What is the meaning of 'magnum opus'? How is it pronounced? (K. M. Kishore, Vizag)

The first syllable 'mag' rhymes with 'bag', 'tag' and 'sag', while the 'u' in both words sounds like the 'a' in 'china'. The 'o' in 'opus' is pronounced like the 'o' in 'so', 'no' and 'go'. The word is pronounced 'mag-nem O-pes' with the main stress on the first syllable of 'opus'. In Latin, 'magnum' means 'great' or 'big'; 'opus' refers to 'a work' or a 'composition' – usually, a musical one. With the passage of time, the expression began to be used in other contexts as well – not necessarily music. 'Magnum opus' is used nowadays to refer to an artist's – painter, writer, sculptor, musician – greatest or most important piece of work. In other words, his masterpiece.

The author worked on his magnum opus for nearly twenty years.

Was the Mona Lisa Leonardo da Vinci's magnum opus?

Which is correct - 'Yours have or Yours has'? (S. Sankara, Kochi)

Both are correct. In English, 'yours' is frequently used as a possessive pronoun. A pronoun, as you know, often replaces a noun. In the case of 'yours', whether the verb that follows it is singular or plural, depends on what sort of noun it is replacing. Is it a singular or a plural noun? Take for example, the following sentence. "My car doesn't have a scratch on it. Yours, on the other hand, has quite a few." In this case, 'yours' is replacing the singular noun, 'car'. It is for this reason that the verb that follows 'yours' is singular (has) as well. Here's another example. "Maya's children have curly hair. Yours have straight hair." In this example, 'yours' is replacing the plural noun 'children'. Therefore, the verb that follows has to be the plural 'have'.

My eyes are very red. Yours are not.

John's house is in the heart of the city. Yours is in the suburbs.

Is it okay to say, 'The parents met the doctor concerned'? (Umesh Patnaik, Cuttack)

In terms of grammar, there is nothing wrong with the sentence. But for most native speakers of English, there is a big difference in meaning between 'The parents met the doctor concerned' and 'The parents met the concerned doctor' – there is a complete change in meaning depending on where the word 'concerned' occurs in the sentence. For example, 'concerned doctor' suggests that the doctor was worried about something. It could be that the child wasn't responding to the treatment being given, and the physician wished to share his concern with the parents. The 'doctor concerned', on the other hand, suggests that the parents were talking to the relevant doctor – the one who was treating their child. In this case, there is no suggestion of the doctor being worried about his patient – there is no cause for alarm.

The concerned children went looking for the lost puppy.

The Principal talked to the teachers concerned.

Not many people in our country maintain this subtle distinction in meaning. We tend to say 'concerned teacher/doctor/officer' when we mean 'teacher/doctor/officer concerned'.

If you're not yelling at your kids, you're not spending enough time with them

-Reese Witherspoon

upendrankye@gmail.com

THE DAILY QUIZ

August 22 is observed as 'Madras Day'. A quiz on the booming southern metropolis of India.

1 Name the two Englishmen considered the founding fathers of Madras as one of them negotiated the purchase of a strip of land south of Pulicat from the Raja of Chandragiri, where the town of Madras was built.

2 One of the places the English considered to exile a famous European ruler/general was Fort St. George in Madras. But he was exiled to an island in the South Atlantic. Identify this ruler/general.

3 Name the peerage name of the husband of Governor-General Lord Dalhousie's daughter Susan after whom a magnificent edifice in Egmore is named.

4 Name the Armenian responsible for the construction of the steps to the church for St. Thomas as well as the Marmalong bridge on the Adyar.

5 Which Nobel Laureate described Madras in 1896 as 'A withered beladame now/Brooding on ancient fame'?

6 Name the German ship that shelled Madras on the night of September 22, 1914.

7 Which part of Madras gets its name from the 230 weaver families that settled there at the instance of Governor George Morton Pitt to produce an enhanced quality of cotton for export?

Compiled by: V.V. Ramanan

◀ The plans of which famous London church was used as reference while constructing the St. Andrew's Church/Kirk shown in the visual? • RAVINDRAN. R

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the August 19 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The meaning of 'photos' and 'graphein' from which photography is derived. **Ans: Draw with light**

2. The reason August 19 is celebrated as World Photography Day. **Ans: It was on this date in 1839 that the French government is believed to have purchased the patent for the 'daguerreotype', the first-ever photographic process**

3. The full forms of DSLR and JPEG. **Ans: Digital Single-Lens Reflex and Joint Photographic Experts Group**

4. Edwin Land's contribution to photography. **Ans: Invented the Polaroid instant camera**

5. The photo of this person titled 'Guerrillero Heroico' which was shot by Alberto Korda. **Ans: Che Guevara**

6. The pop-group 'Les Horribles Cernettes' lays claim to this 'first' in the world of the Internet. **Ans: The first photographic image shared on the World Wide Web**

7. Tony Duffy took an iconic photograph of this athlete in 1968. **Ans: Bob Beamon's record-breaking long jump at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics**

8. The two-word term Henri Cartier-Bresson coined for 'capturing an event that is ephemeral and spontaneous'. **Ans: 'Decisive Moment'**

Visual: This American entrepreneur co-founded 'Kodak'. **Ans: George Eastman**

Early Birds: Vijayalakshmi Gnanavelu| Settem Anjaneyulu| Chidanand| Aarushi Aggarwal

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, AUG. 22	
RISE 06:08	SET 18:37
RISE 01:44	SET 15:03
TUESDAY, AUG. 23	
RISE 06:08	SET 18:36
RISE 02:34	SET 15:54
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 24	
RISE 06:08	SET 18:36
RISE 03:26	SET 16:42

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	23
Mysuru	32	20
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower at few places.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C A slight warm and humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

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THE HINDU
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Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (August 22, Monday), the following explainers are available:

- **Cache** | The OpenSea tale on the future of NFTs bit.ly/cachenft
- **Explained** | The controversy around Nepal's new citizenship law bit.ly/nepallaw
- **Explained** | Delhi Police's use of facial recognition technology bit.ly/delhiface

Online exclusives:

- **Talking Politics** BJP Parliamentary Board: Who made the cut? bit.ly/bjprejig
- **Political Line** India@75: state of democracy and more bit.ly/politcline
- **Watch** | Two musicians recorded the sounds of the Western Ghats bit.ly/ghatssounds
- *You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.*

Pillars at Hebbal junction likely to be razed for future projects

Additional lanes to be built to ease traffic moving from airport to city

SUCHITH KIDIYOOR
BENGALURU

The giant pillars that have come up to add additional loops to the Hebbal flyover are likely to be demolished to make way for future developments at the junction. In 2019, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) had halted the construction work after the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) raised concerns over a proposed loop coming in the way of the phase III alignment of the Namma Metro that goes via Hebbal towards Tumakuru Road.

Out of the 43 pillars, 13 were constructed. Now, these pillars will be removed to facilitate, inter alia, work on the additional lanes and the proposed metro lines.

In July, Congress MLA Krishna Byre Gowda, in a letter to the Chief Minister, asked the State government to resume the work on adding additional loops to decongest traffic. His letter stated that ₹24.49 crore was spent on the halted project, and if the pillars are demolished, it would be seen as an another instance of how lack of coordination and planning results in wastage of public money.

The pillars BDA had erected for the additional loops on Hebbal flyover. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Decongesting traffic

To ease the traffic at the junction, BDA has already floated tenders for constructing additional lanes to benefit motorists coming from Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) and moving towards the city. As per the proposed plan, the BDA will add three lanes in addition to existing two for traffic coming from the airport side.

For the traffic coming from Tumakuru Road side and moving towards K.R. Puram, a unidirectional underpass will be constructed, and a new ramp will be built linking the proposed new lanes for the benefit of the motorists going towards the city.

The BDA is also proposing to dismantle the existing ramp used by the motorists coming from K.R. Puram side to reach the city. Instead, a new flyover will be constructed, a branch of the flyover will be merged with the proposed new lanes towards the city, and motorists from K.R. Puram can use the same flyover to go towards the airport as the same flyover will be linked to the national highway.

Engineering member of the BDA H.R. Shantharajanna said, "For the benefit of the people coming from the airport and entering the city, the BDA has proposed addition of three lanes. They will have a down ramp near the Baptist Hospital. From Esteem Mall side, the elevation of the ramp starts with two lanes; after it converges for the traffic coming from Tumakuru Road side and K.R. Puram side, the three lanes will carry the traffic towards the city. In future, a total of five lanes will be available for the traffic coming from the airport. This plan does not involve acquisition of new properties and can be accommodated with the existing space available on the eastern side of the flyover."

The official said that the down ramp will provide a seamless link to the road heading towards Mekhri Circle without blocking the road that connects residential locations located on the left side of the road from Hebbal towards Baptist Hospital.

When asked about the plans to decongest the traffic coming from the city and moving towards the airport, the official said there are no immediate plans to build the new lanes. "Constructing the additional lanes on western side of the flyover involves land acquisition and also it falls in the buffer zone of the Hebbal Lake. For the time being, the existing three lanes are sufficient for traffic moving from the city to the airport."

Metro line will be above flyover

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has given its consent for the proposed expansion plans of the Hebbal flyover, said Anjum Parwez, Managing Director, BMRCL.

"Meetings were held at the level of Chief Secretary. The proposed plans do not come in the way of our alignment of the airport line as well as the proposed phase III metro line from Hebbal to J.P. Nagar," he said. He added that the Hebbal alignment of the phase III elevated line will go above the Hebbal flyover at level two.

The BMRCL had roped in Rail India Technical and Economic Service (RITES) to come up with a report on decongesting Hebbal and facilitate a multi-modal transit hub in the future. The RITES too had suggested adding of the lanes to ease the traffic by acquiring over 33,558 square meters of land. However, the BDA has not entirely accepted the plans proposed by the RITES. BDA officials maintain that adding of new lines in the eastern part of the flyover will be done without acquiring additional land.

Hebbal junction decongestion plan

- On eastern side of flyover, three lanes to be added. They will ease traffic from airport to city
- Down ramp of new lanes to end at Baptist hospital
- New flyover to be built for traffic coming from K.R. Puram. It will connect with national highway, and also converge with new lanes for traffic moving towards city from K.R. Puram
- Unidirectional underpass to be constructed for free flow of traffic moving from Tumakuru Road to K.R. Puram
- Up ramp to be built for traffic coming from Tumakuru Road. It will be connected to new lanes
- Existing ramp (near park) connecting with main lanes to be dismantled
- Existing ramp for vehicles coming from K.R. Puram going to city to be removed
- Construction of additional lanes for traffic from city to airport to be taken up later
- Proposed alignment of elevated metro from Hebbal to J.P. Nagar to go above Hebbal flyover

Complaint filed about vehicle insurance fraud

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The associate director of a general insurance company has filed a complaint with the southeast cybercrime police seeking probe against as many as 225 fake registration of commercial vehicles in various RTOs in and around the city.

The fraud came to light when the company was probing an insurance claim made by a policyholder, and found that not only was the policy fake, but so were the registration details submitted to the company, K.J. Jinson, a resident of Somasundarpalya, in his complaint to the police said.

According to him, the company has around two lakh insurance policies issued online through the company's website and mobile app. However, someone, misusing the technical loopholes on the website and app, got fake insurance policies to apply for the claim.

The racket came to light during the probe when they also found out that the vehicle number registered at RTOs across the city were also fake. Mr. Jinson further said the racket is prevalent across the country for illegal gain.

The cybercrime police have registered a case of cheating and also under various sections of IT Act against unknown persons and have begun the probe and are gathering documents of the claims made. They have also sought details from the RTOs about the vehicles registered.

In a similar case , the Koramangala police last week arrested B.K. Ravishankar, the suspended clerk of Koramangala RTO, for pocketing the taxes he had collected during his service.

Ravishankar has been booked as accused no. 9 in the FIR registered at Cottonpet police station in a drug scandal involving film stars, DJs and other VIPs. Ravishankar was arrested and after he was out on bail, the police arrested him again under cheating , forgery and criminal breach of trust.

Owner of aviation enterprise, pilot among four booked

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The owner of a Bengaluru aviation and sports enterprise, a pilot and air traffic control in charge are among four booked for involvement in an accident during a flight practice in GFTS Jakkur Aerodrome on July 17 and for not informing the concerned authority.

Considering serious lapses, Basavareddeppa Ronad, Secretary Of GFTS, Jakkur Aerodrome, filed a complaint with the Amruthahalli police on Thursday seeking legal action.

In his complaint, Mr. Ronad said that the owner of the Bangalore Aviation and Sports Enterprises, B.G. Kumaraswamy, accompanied by Dhanush B.K., piloted by Captain Amarnath took VT-UMJ - microlight aircraft for flight practice from Runway-8. The flight completed three landings and during the fourth take-off, the pilot noticed a technical snag in the engine and landed on the runway abruptly with broken gear. Though it was a serious incident, the accused did not report the incident. In addition, Mr. Kumaraswamy and his son Sidhanth B.K. dismantled the wings of the craft and took it outside on the pretext of 50 hour maintenance. This is a serious violation of the DGCA rules, Mr. Ronad said

There were three other aircraft flying at the aerodrome, but even they have not reported the matter. The accused committed a serious mistake culpable under section 11 of Aircraft Act and should be dealt legally, the complainant alleged. The police have summoned the accused to appear for questioning.

CM: National law school for NK region being contemplated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HUBBALLI

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday said that a demand to set up a national law school in North Karnataka was being contemplated and a proposal in this regard would be submitted to the National Bar Council.

Inaugurating the new building of the Haveri Bar Association at the district court complex in Haveri on Sunday Mr. Bommai said that there were plenty of opportunities for young advocates. In addition to practising as criminal and civil advocate, they were other fields, including international law, fiscal law, commercial law and corporate law, where they could make a career, he said.

Terming the State's judicial system as the strongest in the country, Mr. Bommai said that the judiciary in Karnataka was doing a wonderful job and was progressive.

Woman killed, husband injured in freak road accident

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A 28-year-old newly married woman was killed and her husband severely injured after a speeding truck knocked them down near an underpass on Outer Ring Road on Saturday night.

The victims, Shwetha and Anand, residents of Banasawadi, were returning home after watching a movie. According to the police, Anand, a BBA graduate working in the HR department of a leading IT company, got married in March. They had gone to watch a movie near Ramamurthynagar.

Anand slowed down his scooter noticing a truck parked haphazardly, when another unidentified vehicle knocked the scooter down and sped away. Due to the impact, Shwetha was killed on the spot. Anand sustained severe injuries and was admitted to a hospital.

The Banaswadi traffic police registered a case of hit-and-run and also booked a case against the truck driver for parking the vehicle on the road, which caused the accident. The police have seized the truck and arrested the driver. The truck driver had parked his vehicle and gone to a nearby hotel to get his dinner parcel, the police said.

CCB raids live band on Brigade Road

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch officials on Saturday raided a bar and restaurant on Rest House Road and rescued 19 girls who were allegedly forced to perform live. The police also arrested seven employees of the restaurant for running the the business without permission.

The police said the women who were employed at the bar and forced to perform live were lured and brought in to the city from Nepal, West Bengal, Delhi, U.P., Maharashtra and other parts of Karnataka by being promised decent jobs.

The management of the bar did not have a permit from the authorities concerned nor have an occupancy certificate, a police officer said.

The rescued women have been sent to the State home for women, while the accused were remanded in judicial custody. A case has been registered against them in Cubbon Park police station.

BBMP employee held for transferring public fund to friend's account

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Amruthahalli police on Saturday arrested a 39-year-old BBMP employee for allegedly misusing ₹14 lakh bill amount and transferring it to his female friend's account.

The accused Prakash M.K. and his friend Kanchana, 30, from Yelahanka New Town have been arrested and remanded in judicial custody.

Rajendra Naik, Executive Engineer (Power) BBMP office, Byatarayanapura, filed a complaint against Prakash, who works as a second division assistant in the audit section, alleging that he failed to submit records for the annual audit. Despite several reminders and verbal instructions, he failed to do so and stopped coming to office without prior information.

Suspecting something fishy, Mr. Naik sought the bank statements for 2021-2022 to find that the accused had manipulated the cheques and records of funds of ₹14,07,822.00 transferred to his friend's account, later identified as Kanchana between November 2021 and August 2022.

Based on the complaint, the police registered a case of criminal breach of trust and cheating against Prakash and his friend Kanchana and arrested them on Saturday. Mr Naik also submitted a detailed report about the incident to the BBMP head office for necessary action against him. The police are now probing the reason behind the transfer of funds .

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CM: Opposition or support for Savarkar, Tipu should only be done rationally

'The issue should not be fought on the streets, leading to law and order problem'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HUBBALLI

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai speaking to presspersons in Haveri on Sunday. • SANJAY RITTI

Referring to the ideological differences surrounding V.D. Savarkar and Tipu Sultan, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday said that as there were historical facts and arguments both in favour of and against them, they should be opposed rationally instead of coming to streets.

Speaking to presspersons at Hubballi Airport on Sunday, Mr. Bommai said differences were bound to occur on historical facts and developments and they should be argued or defended rationally on ideological grounds. They should not be fought on the streets, leading to a law and order problem, he said.

Mr. Bommai recalled the statement of the former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who had termed Savarkar as "great son of the country". In a democratic setup, the onus was on leaders on what platform they would defend it or argue against it. If this aspect was understood, it would be possible even to work amid differences, he said.

The Chief Minister's statement on supporting or defending Savarkar and Tipu ideologically and rationally without coming to the street has assumed political importance in the wake of such a tussle witnessing communal tension in Shivamogga recently. His remarks are also being seen as a message to both the ruling as well as the Opposition parties.

On the incident of throwing an egg on the car of Opposition leader Siddaramaiah, he said an investigation was being carried out and directions had been issued to the police to provide adequate security cover to him. However, it was left to political parties to decide on how far they would take the matter further. At the same time, it was the responsibility of all political parties to maintain law and order, he said.

Panchamasali issue

Later in the day, the Chief Minister told presspersons in Haveri that he would speak to the seer of Panchamasali Peetha on the issue of Category 2-A reservation for Panchamasali community. It might be recalled that the seer, Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami, had set August 22 as the deadline for meeting the community's demand on reservation.

Mr. Bommai clarified that it was not a deadline and earlier also he had made it clear that any decision on the issue would be taken after the report of the backward classes commission. "Now the commission's work has seen much progress. Once it makes its recommendations, further action will be taken. There are various constitutional parameters, Supreme Court judgments and laws on the issue of reservation. So the recommendations will be considered keeping in mind the legal aspects, and steps will be taken to provide justice to the community. I will speak to the swamiji giving details of the progress on the issue," he said.

On corruption charges, Mr. Bommai said that people had already seen the Congress rule for five years and then rejected them. Ultimately people would decide on this issue and vote during elections, he said.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

When Congress stole a march over BJP

The ruling BJP, which has always remained far ahead in using technology and innovative practices in political programmes, was completely outsmarted by the Opposition Congress on Independence Day.

The manner in which the Congress took out a mega Freedom March for about 7 km in Bengaluru set a new precedent. For the first time, the party used Bengaluru metro trains for the smooth transport of its members who came from different districts surrounding Bengaluru. They were made to park their vehicles on the city's outskirts near metro stations from where they boarded the metro to reach the city centre to take part in the march.

While more than a lakh people participated in the march, nearly half of them used the metro trains that ensured their smooth transport. The party had even bought bulk tickets to prevent confusion.

Of course, that did not completely free the city from chaos as the roads on which the march was taken out became chock-a-block with participation of a large number of people.

However, the organised use of metro prevented a major chaos.

Also, unlike the previous occasions, the Congress had worked systematically to organise this march as it had taken up the initiative of online registration of members for the 'freedom march'. This helped the party in assessing the number of participants.

On the other hand, the ruling BJP's programme organised at Sri Kanteerava Stadium could not match the Congress' march in terms of size despite stalwarts such as the former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai themselves participating in it. This ought to worry the saffron party.

Minister becomes MC

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister J.C. Madhuswamy *(in picture)* chose to become the master of ceremony (MC) on August 12 at a function organised to release books brought out by his department. Soon after the conclusion of the Cabinet meeting at the State Secretariat, a group of Ministers led by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai rushed to the Conference Hall to release books on the Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, which are translated into Kannada. As usual in book release functions, an official of the Law Department started reading a long list of names and relevance of the books.

Mr. Madhuswamy, who sensed the paucity of time at the disposal of the Chief Minister, told the official to cut short his speech. When the official continued his speech at the same pace, the Minister himself took the mike and requested the Chief Minister to release the two books. Mr. Bommai, along with Mr. Madhuswamy, Home Minister Araga Jnanendra and Kannada and Culture Minister V. Sunil Kumar, released the books and left the venue to attend another function. The function, which otherwise could have lasted more than an hour, was cut short to a few minutes. The journalists, who went to cover the Cabinet press briefing, too were relieved by the absence of long speeches.

ACB and its future

The High Court of Karnataka's decision to set aside the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), established in 2016, is an embarrassment to Leader of the Opposition and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

When he was the Chief Minister in 2016, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the ACB was set up with the sole intention of curbing corruption effectively. The then Congress government maintained that it had not changed anything with regard to the Karnataka Lokayukta, and the institution would continue to function under the provisions of the Act of 1984, while the ACB would function under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

Even now, Mr. Siddaramaiah defended the creation of the ACB stating it had been set up in 15 States, including those ruled by the BJP. Senior Congress leaders B. Janardhana Poojary and B.K. Hariprasad had back then criticised Mr. Siddaramaiah's decision to form the ACB on the ground that it dealt a big blow to the Karnataka Lokayukta and would weaken the party's fight against corruption. The BJP had then opposed the ACB and even mentioned in its poll manifesto about its abolition. Now, the ball is in the ruling BJP's court to decide the ACB's future.

B.S. SATISH KUMAR
NAGESH PRABHU

Attack was sponsored by govt., charges Siddaramaiah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Siddaramaiah

Terming the egg attack on him as "government-sponsored", Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly Siddaramaiah said that the attacker, Sampath, belonged to the RSS. He said that the family of the attacker was being forced to confess that he belonged to the Congress. However, the egg attacker was from the RSS, the former Chief Minister told presspersons on Sunday.

To another question that the BJP leaders had accused him of visiting a temple after consuming meat, he said that he had lunch at Sudarshan Guest House in Madikeri in the afternoon and then visited the temple in the evening. "I am a non-vegetarian. What is the problem? Each one has his own eating habits. If you can eat meat in the night and go to temple in the morning what is wrong in eating meat and visiting temple in the evening?"

Meanwhile, Health Minister K. Sudhakar said that the Congress workers had turned against their leaders for speaking lightly against the majority population, and that the Congress leaders should at least now know how to behave in the society. Condemning the egg attack, he said that it was an emotional outburst. "The government has taken action against the person and the Congress should stop politicising it." Dr. Sudhakar said that people "will change" the Congress leaders if they did not change their attitude towards RSS and V.D. Savarkar.

BJP's Janotsava to be held on September 8 in Doddaballapur

Event to mark govt.'s anniversary was earlier scheduled to be held on July 28

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Amid the BJP government in the State coming under pressure from an apparent resurgence of the Opposition Congress, the BJP State unit is set to celebrate three years of the party rule through a Janotsava on September 8.

Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar told presspersons here on Sunday, "Besides Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Cabinet Ministers, BJP central leaders, including party national president J.P. Nadda, will attend the event." Further, he said that two to three lakh people from three districts were likely to participate. The Doddaballapur event will be followed by four more such programmes in the State.

The BJP which was set to celebrate the three years of the party government and one year of Basavaraj Bommai's chief ministership on July 28 at Doddaballapur, near here, had called off the event after the murder of BJP Yuva Morcha leader Praveen Nettaru in Dakshin Kannada that was followed by a spate of resignations in the Yuva Morcha. In an emergency midnight press conference, Mr. Bommai had announced the cancellation of the event.

K. Sudhakar

Dr. Sudhakar said beneficiaries of government schemes and programmes would be participating in the event. Responding to Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah, who termed Janotsava as 'Brashtacharotsava' (celebration of corruption), the Minister said he should keep facts before making such allegations. "People will decide on it and they will let it be known in 2023. Why did the Congress lose in 2018? We could have called it a corrupt government. " Taking a dig at the 75th birthday celebration of Mr. Siddaramaiah, he said, "Janotsava is a report card before people. It is not someone's personal celebration."

Cong. taunts BJP govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Congress has taken a dig at the BJP government alleging rampant corruption.

"Corruption is omnipresent in the 40% commission government. The chairs seek bribe from the Vidhana Soudha to gram panchayat offices," the Congress tweeted, adding that the High Court had also observed that the files do not move if a bribe was not paid.

"The court's observation is a slap on the face of the BJP government," it said.

Responding to BJP MLA for Haveri Nehru Olekar's threat of a black flag demonstration during a function in which Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai participated, the Congress sought to know: "Mr. Bommai, you always said certificate from Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar is not required. Your own legislator is giving a black flag that is bigger than a certificate. Does it not reflect on your administration?"

KASSIA gets new office-bearers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA) unanimously elected a new team of office-bearers on Sunday after the trade body remained without an executive committee for a little over a year.

K.N. Narasimha Murthy has been chosen as president of KASSIA, while Shashidhara Shetty has been elected vice-president at an annual general meeting held here. Mr. Murthy is also a social activist and philanthropist, as per a statement.

Other new-office bearers include B. Praveen, general secretary; Sriprakasha, treasurer; S. Venkatesan, joint secretary (Urban), and Bhimashankar B. Patil, joint secretary (Rural).

K.N. Narasimha Murthy

Meeting with seer: Vijayendra attacks ex-CM for creating a controversy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The spat between Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah and BJP functionaries over the Veerashaiava-Lingayat issue seems to not end.

B.Y. Vijayendra, son of the former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, on Sunday, criticised Mr. Siddaramaiah for allegedly creating a controversy in the meeting with Rambhapuri Mutt seer Veerasomeshwara Shivacharya Swami.

"Mr. Siddaramaiah paid the price for attempting religious politics to cover the anti-people administration and political failure. Nobody expects regret from Mr. Siddaramaiah. How much is it right to create a controversy out of a meeting with a religious head?" he tweeted on Sunday.

Following the meeting with Mr. Siddaramaiah on Saturday, the seer claimed that the former had repented the bid to divide the Lingayat community when he was the Chief Minister. Mr. Siddaramaiah, however, later clarified that he had only explained the turn of events to the seer and that he had not repented.

Mr. Vijayendra also said that Mr. Siddaramaiah was instigating religious fanatics by repeatedly criticising freedom fighter V.D. Savarkar. "A big trench is awaiting you for continuing your religious politics despite having faced the heat earlier," he tweeted.

Meanwhile, Mr. Siddaramaiah's son and Congress legislator from Varuna Yathindra Siddaramaiah in a tweet said: "Savarkar was a fundamentalist who demanded a Hindu *rashtra* and believed that Muslims and Christians will not be loyal to the country. He had argued that others without equal rights should be under the Hindus. How can the minorities consider a communal person as a national leader?"

'BJP leaders enjoying even as people are suffering'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Congress on Sunday ridiculed BJP leaders and Ministers for allegedly spending time watching movies in theatres instead of addressing people's problems.

"These are some examples of film promotion. When Pavagada bus accident occurred, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai was watching *RRR*. When Hubballi residents were being battered by rains, [former Chief Minister] Jagadish Shettar was watching *Kandhidi Nodona*. When farmers are being battered by natural calamities, Agriculture Minister B.C. Patil watched *Life360* the other day and *Galipata-2* yesterday," the Congress tweeted, likening the life of farmers to a kite without strings.

"Instead of taking stock of farmers life, the Agriculture Minister watched *Life360*. For him *Galipata-2* cinema was important. The Chief Minister who cried after watching *Charlie* does not shed tears watching the problems of people. Like in a cinema, this government will bring the peoples' life to THE END," the Congress taunted.

It was unfortunate that the BJP Ministers did not have the least concern towards people, the Congress said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public are hereby notified that, my clients have entered into an agreement to purchase the Schedule property from its Owner: **THE BANGALORE ENAMELS, PAINTS & CHEMICALS PRIVATE LIMITED,** having its registered office at: No.3E, Doddanekkundi Industrial Area,1st Stage Mahadevapura Post, Bengaluru-560048, represented by its **Managing Director: Mr.ASHOK SHARMA.**

Apart from the said owner, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of an immovable property being Industrial **Plot bearing No.3E, Municipal No.637/3E** (Old No.3E), measuring East to West on the Northern side 25 Meters, on the Southern side 27 Meters and North to South on the Eastern side 78.30 Meters & on the Western side 77.70 Meters, totally measuring 2011 Square Meters (21,646 Square feet), with a building thereon, situated at **Doddanekkundi 1st Phase Industrial Area,** in Sy.No.73 of Doddanekkundi Village, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk (now Bengaluru East Taluk) presently within the administrative jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Ward No.85 (Doddanekkundi) and bounded as follows:

East by : Plot bearing No.3-F;
West by : Plot bearing No.3-D;
North by : Plot bearing No.3-B;
South by : Road

Sd/- Goutam Chand S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/AEE-(C)/2022-23/5072-73 Date: 19.08.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)

KPTCL invites tenders for the various Civil works in Hoody and Somanahalli Division. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'e-Procurement-KPTCL' or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 22.08.2022.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elecl.)
Tr(M), BMAZ, South Circle, Ground Floor, KPTCL, Office Complex, A.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560009. Ph./Fax : 22386686-85

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the General Public that, the following documents have been misplaced/ lost. If any person/s finds/holding the below said document is/are requested to return the same to us at the below stated address.

LIST OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS MISPLACED / LOST

1. Joint development agreement dated 26/03/2008 executed by and between Mantri Developers Private Limited; Aayas Trade Services Private Limited and Walden Properties Private Limited registered as document No. BNG (U) -VRT 692/2008-09, Book-I, stored in C.D.No.VRTD27, in the office of the sub registrar, Varthur, Bangalore and
2. General Power of attorney dated 26/03/2008 executed Mantri Developers Private Limited in favour of Aayas Trade Services Private Limited registered as document No. BNHG (U) -VRT 4-00370-2007-08, Book IV, stored in C.D.No.VRTD24, in the office of the sub registrar, Varthur, Bangalore.

Malini Raju
JSA
Level 3, Prestige Obelisk,
3 Kasturba Road, Bengaluru 560 001, India
Ph: +91 80 4350 3600

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER - (Only through e-Procurement Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (Project), 3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & Time for submission of tender	Date and time for opening of tender
1	Central Stores	BWSSB/EE(CStr)/AEE/AE/STR/ 370/2022-23 Date: 17.08.2022 (4th Call)	₹ 32,32,000/- / ₹ 64,640/-	12.09.2022 upto 4:00 pm	14.09.2022 at 12:00 Noon

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Central Stores)

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

2	North West - 2	BWSSB/EE(NW-2)/PB/866/ 2022-23 Date: 19.08.2022	₹ 5,62,998/- / ₹ 14,100/-	05.09.2022 upto 4:00 pm	06.09.2022 after 3:00 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North West - 2)

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

3	South West - 1	BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/155/ 2022-23 Date: 20.08.2022	1	₹ 17,57,377/- / ₹ 50,000/-	07.09.2022 upto 4:00 pm	09.09.2022 after 3:00 pm
4			2	₹ 22,65,601/- / ₹ 50,000/-		
5			3	₹ 23,49,623/- / ₹ 50,000/-		
6			4	₹ 24,52,645/- / ₹ 50,000/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South West - 1)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the above signed office during working hours. DIPR/CP/MIA/1877/2022-23

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

She was all things that make this world Kind and Pure. Gentle, Loving, Gifted, Innocent, Happy Soul.

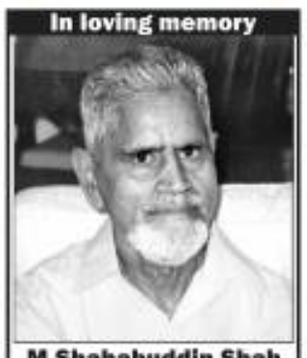
Mrs. Sunita Repswal
(21 Dec 1968 - 21 Aug 2022)

With extreme grief we inform you of this irreplaceable loss, the sad demise of Mrs Sunita Repswal wife of Lt Gen BK Repswal who left us for her heavenly abode on 21 Aug 2022.

Bereaved : Basant, Shaan, Ishna & family members.

REMEMBRANCE

In loving memory



M.Shahabuddin Shah
10.01.1919 - 22.08.2011
"Indeed we belong to Allah, and indeed we towards Him will return."
Quran 2: 156
Fondly remembered By
Family and Friends

IN BRIEF

TDP leader Lokesh taken into preventive custody

SRIKAKULAM / VIJAYAWADA

Telugu Desam Party general secretary N. Lokesh was taken into preventive custody in Srikakulam on Sunday when he was on his way to visit Palasa to meet leaders, who were up in arms against Minister Sidiri Appala Raju's alleged misuse of police and revenue administration. Superintendent of Police G.R. Radhika said there was no permission for rallies as prohibitory orders under Section 144 were in force at Palasa.

Seven-year-old branded with hot spoon

VIJAYAWADA

The Mahila Police of Sachivayalam, along with the Patamata police, rescued a seven-year-old girl who was allegedly branded with a hot spoon by her 'superstitious' parents, from Patamata area in the city a few days ago. Hearing the screams of the girl, the neighbours alerted the Andhra Pradesh Mahila Commission and the Sachivayalam staff concerned. The rescued girl was produced before the NTR District Child Welfare Committee (CWC).

Family of four found dead at Nizamabad hotel

HYDERABAD

A family of four persons were found dead in a hotel room in Nizamabad on Sunday. It is suspected that the head of the family Suryaprakash, fed poison to his wife, daughter and son, and later ended his own life. The police said they have also recovered a note purportedly written by Mr. Suryaprakash which mentions the names of business partners who harassed him over financial matters which was the reason for the decision. *(Suicide prevention helpline: 040-6620 2000)*

Shah raises bypoll pitch at Munugode

He targets the Telangana CM, accuses him of being 'anti farmer'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has accused Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao of being "anti-farmer" and denying farmers the benefit of PM Fasal Bima Yojana (crop insurance scheme) and not purchasing paddy at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) prescribed by the Centre.

"If you elect our party to power in the next elections, I promise you that our government will buy every single kilo of paddy being produced by the farmers and implement the farm insurance scheme," he promised at a public meeting in Munugode on Sunday, where an Assembly byelection is being held. After formally welcoming Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy into the party by offering him the saffron scarf, Mr. Shah urged the gathering to ensure the former is elected again and focused on Mr. Rao's election promises and family rule during his speech at the event.

"Mr. Rajgopal Reddy joining us is the beginning of the end of the KCR regime. The next election will have our Chief Minister under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and I will guarantee you that the corrupt government of KCR will vanish. Our government will also celebrate the Telangana Liberation Day on September 17," he said.

Power move: Amit Shah, G. Kishan Reddy, Bandi Sanjay Kumar visiting the Ujjaini Mahakali Temple. • G. RAMAKRISHNA

Reminding the gathering about KCR's promise of making a Dalit person the Chief Minister of the State, Mr. Shah said even after KCR, it will be his son KTR (K.T. Rama Rao) who will become the Chief Minister and not a Dalit person. "Tribal persons have been denied land rights and employment opportunities are restricted to KCR's family. Why should Telangana bear the burden of this dynastic rule? His Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project has become an ATM," he alleged.

The country's highest petrol price was in Telangana because the State government had not cut taxes despite the Modi government cutting taxes twice to bring the prices down. Telangana was also reeling in debt despite the Centre sanctioning ₹2 lakh crore, he claimed and appealed to the people to strengthen the hands of Mr. Modi by voting for Mr. Rajgopal Reddy and the BJP to help the Lotus bloom here. Senior leader P. Muralidhar Rao translated his Hindi speech into Telugu.

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, in his address, said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi or the BJP does not give directions to ED (Enforcement Directorate) or CBI and "only those who commit wrongs will have to fear them".

"Why are you (KCR) afraid or keep taking the law enforcement and investigative agencies' names all the time if you are above board," he asked. Mr. Shah has come here to start the battle to wrest Telangana from the clutches of KCR and his family and the entire Telangana will give suitable answer to the regime soon, he said.

Rajya Sabha member K. Laxman claimed KCR's meeting the previous day was a "big failure" and accused the Chief Minister of resorting to false charges against the Centre in his speech.

Three die after falling into a manhole in A.P.

They slipped will trying to clean drain

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

Three persons fell into a drainage manhole will cleaning it and died of asphyxiation at Sattenapalli in Palnadu district of Andhra Pradesh. The bodies were retrieved on Sunday.

The deceased were identified as building owner Kondala Rao (58) and workers Anil Kumar (20) and Brahmam (19).

The incident occurred when the two workers were trying to clean the drain of a restaurant near the local bus station.

The duo and Kondala Rao accidentally slipped and fell into the manhole.

"When the two workers and the building owner did not come out , we alerted the police, who rushed to the spot," a local resident said. The police and fire department officials retrieved the bodies from the manhole. A case has been registered and probe is on.

Families stage a protest

Meanwhile, tension prevailed at the government hospital mortuary when the family members of the workers staged a dharna demanding that the government should pay compensation to them. The kin of the deceased said the families had lost their breadwinners.

50% management quota rule in CMC Vellore 'absolute', says SC

Remaining seats to be filled by T.N. through NEET

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

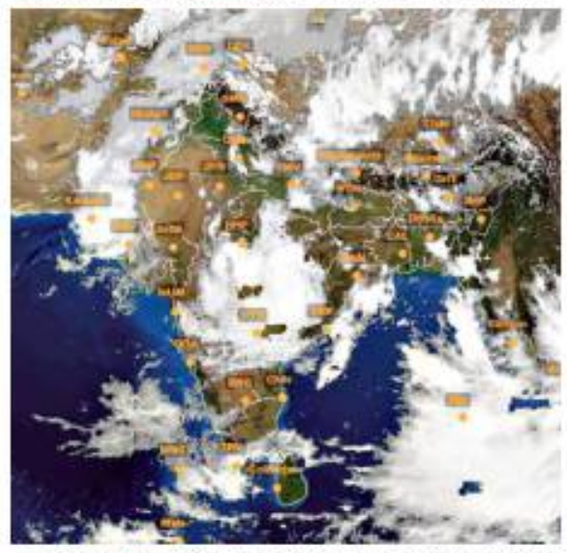
The Supreme Court has made "absolute" the rule that the management of the prestigious Vellore Christian Medical College will fill up 50% of undergraduate and postgraduate seats in accordance with procedure followed in earlier academic years based on inter-se merit as per the NEET results.

A Bench accepted the arguments made by the Christian Medical College Vellore Association while observing that the arrangement made between the parties, which include the State of Tamil Nadu, is "just and fair". Confirming the rules of admission to the college, the Supreme Court said in its recent order that out of the 50% management quota for undergraduate MBBS course, 10% seats should be allotted to the children of staff members in accordance with past practice as per the NEET results.

The remaining 50% of the seats would be filled by the State government from the State merit list of NEET. Out of this 50% seats, 30% seats would be filled by the State government following its policy of reservation strictly in accordance with the NEET merit list and 20% of the seats would be filled by the State government candidates belonging to the Christian minority from the State as per NEET list. The management quota for postgraduate courses would be 50%. The other 50% of the seats would be filled by Tamil Nadu.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places likely over east Rajasthan and west Madhya Pradesh; heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places over Madhya Maharashtra and heavy rainfall at isolated places over south Haryana, east Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Gujarat, Goa and Coastal Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	34.5	26.8	Kozhikode	–	32.4	24.8
Ahmedabad	–	31.9	25.6	Kurnool	–	35.3	25.4
Aizawl	19.0	28.6	22.1	Lucknow	3.0	34.0	27.1
Allahabad	–	30.1	26.4	Madurai	–	34.4	23.7
Bengaluru	–	29.1	21.2	Mangaluru	31.4	29.0	23.6
Bhopal	25.0	29.7	22.4	Mumbai	–	29.0	25.0
Bhubaneswar	–	31.2	26.8	Mysuru	–	31.8	22.6
Chandigarh	21.0	32.1	25.4	New Delhi	–	31.8	25.8
Chennai	0.2	35.8	27.1	Patna	–	31.1	26.8
Coimbatore	–	32.0	23.0	Port Blair	4.0	30.9	26.2
Dehradun	6.5	28.5	22.0	Puducherry	–	33.0	25.8
Gangtok	13.0	22.2	18.6	Pune	1.2	28.3	21.6
Goa	0.5	29.4	25.2	Raipur	5.2	29.2	24.0
Guwahati	–	36.8	26.9	Ranchi	75.0	23.6	21.7
Hubballi	–	28.0	22.0	Shillong	0.1	26.6	18.2
Hyderabad	–	30.0	23.4	Shimla	7.0	21.4	19.2
Imphal	0.4	30.1	22.1	Srinagar	0.6	32.1	16.9
Jaipur	–	32.0	26.0	Thiruvananthapuram	–	31.8	24.0
Kochi	–	–	25.8	Tiruchi	–	34.7	26.0
Kohima	1.0	25.6	17.0	Vijayawada	–	34.6	26.7
Kolkata	0.9	30.7	26.8	Visakhapatnam	–	34.0	28.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	63	40	.54	46	91	
Bengaluru	7	27	.42	30	93	
Chennai	42	46	.14	54	94	
Delhi	–	–	.95	148	180	
Hyderabad	8	2	.88	25	50	
Kolkata	11	5	.10	29	37	
Lucknow	11	10	.55	18	28	
Mumbai	5	5	103	43	52	
Pune	–	–	–	–	–	
Visakhapatnam	11	40	.19	56	107	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Faridabad, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 186 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Davanagere, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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The case for online learning

Betty Vandenbosch, chief content officer for Coursera, shares her views on how the Internet is accelerating the forward-thinking era of education

GETTY IMAGES AND SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

SOMA BASU

If teaching is talking, and learning is listening, then, does it make a difference whether you are inside a classroom or staring at your computer screen to share and gain knowledge?

For Bharathan, an Engineering graduate working as a data analyst in Chennai, it did. With 15% vision since the age of five, Bharathan took several online courses over the years, for deep learning, with assistive technologies. It equipped him in a world that otherwise challenged him inside classrooms.

When COVID-19 forced campus closures, Priyanka's college transitioned online. She completed courses mapped to the curriculum and built her skills, which helped her to seal a placement offer.

Standard educational pedagogy was the norm for years. But, digital learning has made people reimagine education because there is better assistance for those with disabilities, computer-based remote exams are conducted, and students attend classes at foreign universities while living in another country or continent.

Creating opportunities

Online learning is revolutionising education, and people are using it to further themselves, affirms Betty Vandenbosch, the former Chancellor of Purdue University Global. As the chief content officer for Coursera, a U.S.-based online content provider, she keeps pace with learner demands and job-market dynamics.

On a visit to India, recently, to explore new partnerships with the academia and the industry, she points out that India reported the highest growth for new online learners globally, between 2019 and 2021.

"About 15 million joined Coursera programmes since January 2020. The maximum enrolments were from Manipur, Bihar, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh. Together, the non-metros added up to 62% at the end of 2021, in contrast to 2019 when 68% of learners were from Delhi-NCR, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh," she says.

Sought-after courses include Computer Programming, Machine Learning, Probability and Statistics, Theoretical Computer Science, business and personal development skills such as communication, leadership, management and entrepreneurship, Data Science and Programming, the science of well-being, and English learning for career development.

"The pandemic accelerated the digital transformation of learning; online education has become a critical pathway to building a more inclusive and accessible model," Vandenbosch says.

Inclusive growth

The trend of reputed universities now offering online degree programmes, Vandenbosch believes, is an advantage for the institutions, educators and learners. She asserts that the Internet makes education easier and more convenient, fairer and flexible, cost-effective and enjoyable and that the reach of online education cannot be disputed despite the return to physical classes.

However, she also accepts that online users require self-discipline. In underdeveloped areas, people know about the adoption of new technologies but ignore the importance of connecting with high-quality educational resources.

"We are in a forward-thinking era of education where learning is not limited to textbooks or confined to classrooms. Educators are exploring ways to connect with students anywhere and the students have the choice of either quick thinking (in classrooms) or deep thinking (online classes)," explains Vandenbosch.

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Email: enquiry@nitte.edu.in

Spirited battle

AAP has a lot to explain of its excise policy, even if the CBI inquiry is motivated

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has accused Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and 14 others of corruption in the implementation of the Excise Policy 2021-22 in the National Capital Territory. On Friday, the agency searched Mr. Sisodia's house and also multiple locations in the country. Mr. Sisodia has said he expects the agency to arrest him soon. On July 21, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena had recommended a CBI probe after the Chief Secretary of the Delhi government submitted a report alleging "ulterior motive of monetary gains" on the part of the accused in the implementation of the new policy, which the Delhi government then withdrew. The controversial policy which was rolled out on November 17, 2021 had privatised and liberalised the liquor trade, with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government projecting a revenue increase of ₹9,500 crore. The report has accused Mr. Sisodia of "deliberate and gross procedural lapses" to give "undue benefits to liquor licensees" through the policy, and receiving kickbacks through clandestine routes, which the CBI is probing. AAP has claimed that the new policy made the liquor trade more beneficial for the public exchequer and consumers.

The merits of the case remain a subject matter of investigation, but hardly anyone expects the CBI to be impartial. The agency has been blatantly misused by the BJP and the Centre to target political opponents and States run by the Opposition. The BJP has been successful in putting its opponents on the defensive through CBI and ED investigations on a regular basis. The irony in this instance is that AAP has been a votary of strong central laws and central institutions to combat corruption, having transformed itself into a political party after beginning as an anti-corruption campaign platform. Its popularity in Delhi has curiously alternated with its principal opponent, the BJP. While AAP swept the last two Assembly elections in Delhi, the BJP won all seven Lok Sabha seats twice over during the same period. AAP's welfare schemes in Delhi helped it replicate its popularity in Punjab where it won power, but is now struggling to govern. AAP's strategy has been to tar all politicians – and politics itself – with the same brush while claiming to be the only incorruptible entity. Its attempts to reenact the script in Gujarat, the prestigious pedestal of the BJP where elections are due this year, were bound to invite the BJP's wrath. But AAP has a lot to explain. It remains to be seen whether the holier-than-thou politics crafted by AAP survives the no-prisoners approach of the BJP, even as it tries to frame the 2024 general election as a contest between AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Fight for survival

The international community must back Somalia in its fight against terror

The delicate but peaceful transition of power in Somalia earlier this year after the delayed but successful completion of the legislative and presidential elections had raised hopes that the conflict-stricken country in the Horn of Africa was finally moving towards some political stability. But Friday's siege of an upscale hotel in the capital Mogadishu – at least 20 people were killed – is a grave reminder of the security challenges the country is facing despite the promises made by the new administration of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud to ideologically, financially, and militarily defeat violent extremists. Armed militants stormed the hotel and took several civilians hostage before security personnel ended the siege about 30 hours later, as claimed by al-Shabab. This al-Qaeda-affiliated terror outfit, which controls much of southern and central parts of Somalia, has repeatedly targeted civilians and security personnel in government-controlled territories. In recent years, despite international counter-terror measures, al-Shabab has grown in strength, cashing in on the humanitarian crisis in Somalia and the security crises in neighbouring countries. According to a 2020 report, it collects more revenue than the government, has built one of the strongest terrorist machineries in the continent, and is now seeking to expand its influence across the Horn of Africa.

Somalia has long been called a failed or fragile state. It has also seen one of the biggest failures of international counter-terror operations. Civil conflicts in Somalia can be traced back to the dictatorship of General Siad Barre. As Barre's regime collapsed in 1991, the country fell into chaos and civil war, with different clan-based armed groups fighting one another. Since then, Somalia has seen several attempts to form a stable state and regional and international interventions to establish security, but none has proved successful. Al-Shabab emerged from this chaos and went on to become what it is today. Part of the problem is that the government's writ does not run in regions beyond the capital. The country is also witnessing a massive humanitarian crisis amid a severe drought. As state institutions remain fragile and dependent on the mercy of international donors, it is easy for the militants to retain their territorial fiefs. There are no magic bullets for Somalia's woes. But to begin with, the federal government in Mogadishu and its regional and international backers should have a comprehensive security and crisis-response approach. The government's focus should be on providing essential services, goods and relief to the people while at the same time establishing an effective and affordable security architecture through a broad-based political consensus. Both state-building and counter-terror operations should be carried out side-by-side and the international community should generously back Somalia in its fight for survival.

Bihar and the evolution of Mandal politics

The next few years will show whether the Mandal platform still has the potential to take on the Hindutva juggernaut

ASIM ALI

Politics in Bihar is set to revolve around the Mandal-Hindutva axis once more with the Janata Dal (United) and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) joining hands again to form an alliance. In neighbouring Uttar Pradesh, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), after 2014, has trounced the main Mandal party, the Samajwadi Party (SP), in every single election. However, the BJP now faces a more difficult task in Bihar as Mandal politics in the State has evolved in a manner that makes it more resistant to the BJP's advances.

A rewind to the past. By the mid-1990s, Mandal politics in Bihar had fractured and become two competing political formations – Lalu Prasad Yadav's Janata Dal (later the RJD) and Nitish Kumar's (and George Fernandes') Samata party (later the JD(U)). The roots of both parties were each in a dominant backward caste: the Yadavs and the Kurmis, respectively. The political competition between both parties forced each one to evolve differing strategies of mobilisation, preventing the kind of political stagnation that beset Mandal politics in Uttar Pradesh. A JD(U)-RJD combine, therefore, would not have the same glaring weaknesses to the BJP's backward caste strategy that proved decisive in Uttar Pradesh.

Challenges in Bihar

Let us start with a brief sketch of the political battleground. The core vote base of the JD(U)-RJD combine (15% Yadavs, 11% Kurmis-Koeris and 17% Muslims) is much greater than that of the BJP's (15% upper castes). Thus, the BJP can only win the State if there is a major consolidation of the floating voters (26% Extremely Backward Castes, or EBCs, 16% Dalits). The BJP has effected a successful 'coalition of extremes' strategy in Uttar Pradesh to mop up these very segments, but such a consolidation in Bihar faces two challenges.

First, the EBCs are better integrated in the broader Mandal framework than in Uttar Pradesh. In fact, the politicisation of non-dominant backwards in Bihar started in the pre-Mandal, socialist phase under the leadership of former Bihar Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur. The sub-quota for EBCs was built into the scheme of reservation that Thakur (who himself was from the EBC nai caste) introduced in 1977. The existence of a separate reservation pie had ensured that the tussle between dominant and non-dominant backwards was often not as sharp as in Uttar Pradesh, which still has not seen the implementation of sub-quotas. Lalu Prasad carried the EBCs on the backward caste platform throughout the 1990s. When the EBCs were eventually repelled by the Yadav domination under the RJD, Nitish Kumar's JD(U) picked up the mantle.

Even though Nitish Kumar's base lies among the Kurmi-Koeri castes, he has followed his mentor Karpoori Thakur in positioning himself as the leader of the EBCs, a heterogeneous grouping of smaller castes. One of the first major decisions he took as Chief Minister after first coming to power in 2005 was to implement a 20% quota for EBCs in panchayat elections. This quota gambit allowed the JD(U) to begin the process of building a base among the EBCs, who had till then only flocked to the NDA as an alternative to RJD rule. Therefore, it would not be easy for the BJP to mobilise the EBCs against the dominant backwards. Even in 2015, when the BJP was expecting to sweep the EBC vote, they split almost evenly between the Mahagathbandhan (MGB) or the RJD-JD (U) Mahagatbandhan and the BJP.

Dalit factor

Second, Mandal parties in Bihar have a long-standing record of accommodating Dalits within their platforms. This is one reason why lower-caste politics in Bihar neither ruptured along the Mandal-Dalit axis nor birthed a pan-Dalit party such as the Bahujan Samaj Party. As the political scientist Amit Ahuja has said in his book, *Mobilising the Marginalized*, while Dalits in U.P. saw Mayawati as their leader, they saw Lalu Prasad, and later Nitish Kumar as their leader in Bihar. In a broad sense, the Dalit energy in Uttar Pradesh was cultivated by the BSP in the politics of Ambedkarism and the idiom of everyday assertion, whereas in Bihar, it grew under the politics of Marxism and the idiom of class conflict. As the commmunist parties were declining in influence, the RJD co-opted their leftist vocabulary of attacking feudal upper caste landlords and mobilised the Dalits along class lines. In a National Election Survey in 2004, over 50% of Dalits agreed with the statement that Lalu Prasad was a "messiah of the poor". Later, the JD(U) waded into Dalit politics by nurturing the constituency of Mahadalits (strategically excluding the dominant Paswans).

PTI

In 2015, the BJP corralled smaller Dalit parties such as the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) (a Paswan party) and the Hindustan Awam Morcha (HAM), a Musahar party, within the NDA coalition, and yet could not garner a clear majority of Dalit votes. This is because these parties do not fully command even their own caste base: the LJP has never managed to garner more than 50% of the Paswan vote. Indeed, its performance against the MGB in the 2015 elections was disastrous – it won only three out of the 63 seats they contested. Thus, Bihar does not have the kind of intense antagonism between Dalits and the backwards that the BJP has exploited to the hilt in Uttar Pradesh.

However, caste chemistry alone would not suffice to keep out the BJP, which is a rising force, and now the chief occupant of the anti-incumbency space in Bihar politics – a growing space after nearly two decades of Nitish Kumar-led rule. Thus, the coalition would also need to fine-tune its governance platform so that it does not lose out on the rubric of *'vikas'* (development).

Grades of Mandal politics

The RJD and the JD(U) have historically practised different brands of Mandal politics, which can be crudely categorised as hard Mandal and soft Mandal, respectively. The RJD under Lalu Prasad framed its politics in a pronounced ideological mould as a battle for *izzat* (dignity). Politics was framed as a zero-sum game between upper castes and backward castes. In his book, *Democracy against Development*, Jeffrey Witsoe characterised Lalu Prasad's regime as marked not just by intense politicisation of the state machinery, but even a deliberate weakening of the bureaucracy as it was seen to be controlled by upper castes. If this led to poorer state capacity, and hence worse developmental outcomes, it was a reasonable price to pay for a thorough reconfiguration of social power. A popular RJD slogan was *'vikas nahi samman chahiye* (we need dignity, not development)'.

On the other hand, the JD(U) practised soft Mandal, where upper castes were never cast as the 'Other' to be mobilised against. Of course, this was necessitated by the alliance with the BJP, which brought upper caste voters into the JD(U) fold. But it also allowed Nitish Kumar to centre his party more around the pre-Mandal Janata model of social betterment rather than the post Mandal ideological politics of 'forwards versus backwards'. Nitish Kumar expounded an inclusive, subnational Bihari identity and exhorted voters to rise above caste and vote for development. Thus, development was portrayed as the ultimate objective of politics, whereas social justice policies were merely the necessary complement to ensure an equitable distribution of its fruits.

The JD(U)-RJD tie up is therefore a marriage between hard and soft Mandal. The success of the marriage depends upon whether the respective strengths of the partners rub off on each other or do the weaknesses.

Squaring up

In the best-case scenario, the RJD could use the clean and development-oriented image of Nitish Kumar to dilute the 'jungle raj' perception that still afflicts the party and limits its support base to Yadav and Muslims. Meanwhile, the JD(U) could benefit from the dose of ideological replenishment provided by the grand Mandal alliance. Competing against the BJP means it can write off most of its upper caste vote, which had already slipped in the last election. Further, the BJP has largely co-opted the soft Mandal platform (both of its deputy Chief Ministers belonged to backward castes), in addition to its core Hindutva appeal. Thus, in order to fend off the BJP's forays into its backward caste base, the party might require the ideological reinforcement of hard Mandal. In 2015, it was Lalu Prasad who had managed to transform the election into an ideological 'forwards versus backwards' contest.

Of course, there is an equally plausible worst-case scenario where the coalition gets defined by the governance deficits of the RJD and the ideological rootlessness of the JD(U). Moreover, it is unclear if the coalition's strengths can coalesce in the same way they did seven years ago: Nitish Kumar's approval ratings have registered a sharp decline, and Lalu Prasad's campaigning ability stands severely restricted.

The next few years of Bihar politics would make it clear whether the Mandal platform still has the potential to compete against the Hindutva juggernaut. Or is the new alliance the last, futile stand of a receding past against the inevitable future?

Asim Ali is a political researcher and columnist based in Delhi

In Kansas vote, relief and caution for Democrats

Kansas was about one issue, while on November 8, voters will look at individuals with a track record on multiple issues

SRIDHAR KRISHNASWAMI

Forget the Republicans for a second. Even Democrats in the Red State of Kansas could not believe what came their way in a so-called referendum on abortion rights recently in the aftermath of the stunning, but expected, overturn of *Roe vs Wade* by the United States Supreme Court on June 24, 2022. Armed with a margin of 19 percentage points, the people of Kansas retained the right to abortion. This was also the same State where Donald Trump trounced Hillary Clinton by 20 points in 2016, and Joseph Biden by 15 points in 2020.

For Democrats, the news from Kansas was a relief of sorts, what with a troubled presidency with historic low approval ratings and an almost alarming rate of departures by White House staff. Traditionally, the party of the President suffers in the off-year mid-terms, but on November 8, there is expected to be some sort of a 'killing' this time round, with the Grand Old Party running amok in the House of Representatives and even edging Democrats out of their razor-thin majority in the Senate (where Republicans need only one seat in order to turn the tables).

'Disrupting' the social fabric

Even before the Kansas referendum, the U.S. Supreme Court helped Democrats define their political opposition. In the run-up to the 2020 elections, Democrats were labelled as a bunch of communists and socialists out on a culture war to re-define what America was all about. Some 18 months down the line, Democrats (in the aftermath of the Roe verdict) began painting Republicans as a group of narrow-minded radicals and extremists not satisfied with only taking away the rights of women on abortion but also keeping options open on the issues of same-sex marriage, gays and lesbians. The Republicans, in the view of Democrats, are out to tear the social fabric of America.

The overturning of *Roe vs Wade* and the outrage that followed has been reflected in opinion surveys as well. For instance in a poll by Monmouth University, 50% prefer Democrats to be in control of Congress as opposed to 43% in favour of Republicans. In May, Republicans had a four-point advantage over Democrats while in June the survey was evenly split at 47%. And some may argue that the slow turnaround for Democrats is taking place even with their man in the Oval Office posting only a 38% approval rating. Some polls have the numbers in the low 30s.

REUTERS

Points and subjects

There are a few things that need to be kept in mind before reading too much into the Kansas verdict, the first being "A week is a long time in politics", a statement usually attributed to Harold Wilson in the 1960s. But Joseph Chamberlain had also remarked, in 1886, "In politics, there is no use in looking beyond the next fortnight." Either way, the essence of the message is quite clear – that anything can happen between now and some 14 weeks down the line.

More importantly, the Kansas vote was over a single issue, while on November 8, voters will choose between individuals with a track record on multiple issues. Looking at different surveys, it is seen that even if voters prefer Republicans over Democrats, the response is different if the subject of abortion is included with or without restrictions. In Kansas, Republicans voted against the anti-abortion measures but still voted in the Republican primary. Favouring abortion rights is not an automatic vote for a particular candidate. Political strategists of both parties will have this in mind when checking boxes ahead of the actual polls.

In focus

Democrats will be keen to hammer away at abortion and other looming threats from a Republican majority in Congress. Some will even try to make an issue out of the Congressional hearings of the January 6, 2021 incidents where there was a scandalous turn of events during the Trump Presidency. The GOP will focus on the Biden Presidency, on issues such as gun control, crime, the economy including inflation and jobs, and pocket book issues such as the price of fuel at pumps.

Democrats may legitimately say that the economy is slowly beginning to look up especially on the jobs creation front, but the question still relevant is whether the Biden administration has effectively conveyed this. Democrats also see a turnaround in the fortunes of the party in terms of unity on big ticket issues such as climate change. But the ultimate challenge will be in pulling voters, especially white women from the urban and rural areas, to the booths on November 8.

If the latest action of state legislature in Indiana is anything to go by, where lawmakers approved a near total ban on abortion, the challenge before Democrats and President Joe Biden is not only the House of Representatives and Senate but also State Legislatures, Governors mansions, judicial positions and Attorneys General that are up for grabs. Often in the mad race to focus on the big picture there is the tendency to forget that "All politics is local", to quote the former Speaker of the House, Tip O'Neil.

Sridhar Krishnaswami was a former senior journalist based in Washington for 14 years and covering North America and the United Nations. The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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AAP and raids

The Central Bureau of Investigation's raiding of the residence of the Deputy Chief Minister of New Delhi, Manish Sisodia, and also others over allegations of corruption in the Delhi Excise policy of 2021-22 could further strain the already tense relations between the Aam Aadmi Party government in New Delhi and the Bharatiya Janata Party ruling at the Centre. The fight against all-pervasive corruption is welcome but it should not be selective and aimed only against the Opposition – that seems to be the public perception. The frequency with which central agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate have been filing cases against the those who are the BJP's political rivals, and how these agencies have 'turned forgiving overnight' when these persons have switched sides politically only lends credence to the point that the central agencies are being grossly misused to stifle the voice of the Opposition. This also makes the claim made by the national party of being a crusader against corruption all the more hollow.

M. JEYARAM,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

■ When there is a binary in deciding who is corrupt and who is clean, which in turn is guided by wilful political intentions, the whole exercise becomes a mockery. The top brass of the national party seems to be suffering from the malady of wanting 'totalitarian rule', and spreading political fear. The vacuum of a united Opposition is being felt.

DR. BIJU C. MATHEW
Thiruvananthapuram

■ Let Mr. Sisodia fight his case in court instead of levelling all sorts of political allegations. Why should he drag in the name of the Prime Minister? If he is really clean then he must prove it.

V.S. GANESHAN,
Bengaluru

Missing grace

The allegation by some leaders in the national party that *The New York Times* article praising Mr. Sisodia for his good work in the field of education was 'paid news' is strange. Mr. Sisodia is a senior functionary in the Delhi government. If his good work was singled out for praise by a respected paper, it should be a matter of pride to every Indian. Perhaps such leaders should learn to emulate the graciousness that India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, extended even to his critics. How one misses those days when leaders were leaders and not pygmies.

G.G. MENON,
Tripunithura, Ernakulam, Kerala

Court must step in

It is most unfortunate that when the Prime Minister was talking about the need to preserve the dignity of women, just hours later, 11 criminals who were convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for the most heinous crime – gang rape and murder – were released from a jail in Gujarat.

There may be different provisions guiding remission but looking at the seriousness of this case, there should have been considered thought. In this instance, it seems to be about politics and vote-gathering. It is a shame that these convicts were greeted in a manner as if they were heroes who had won a battle. Under these unprecedented circumstances, the Supreme Court of India needs to take up this case *suo motu* and review this decision.

S.K. KHOSLA,
Chandigarh

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS: A sentence in the Editorial, "Control, alter" (August 20, 2022), had referred to "BJP OBC Morcha head and Rajya Sabha MP K. Laxman *from Telangana* and *Lok Sabha MP Sudha Yadav* from Haryana." Sudha Yadav is a *former Lok Sabha MP*. A clarification: K. Laxman is from Telangana (and a former State President of the BJP in Telangana) who has now been nominated to the Upper House from Uttar Pradesh.

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What next on data protection?

There are two issues – the form that a new law will take, and the nature of protections it will offer

RISHAB BAILEY & SUYASH RAI

GETTY IMAGES

The withdrawal of the Personal Data Protection Bill from Parliament came as a surprise, particularly after so much effort was put into it over the last five years. Between August 2017 and July 2018, a 10-member committee chaired by a former Supreme Court judge drafted the Bill. The committee included four senior government officials. The Bill was then revised by the government, approved by the Cabinet, and tabled in Parliament in December 2019. Subsequently, a joint parliamentary committee, or JPC, comprising a majority of BJP members, reviewed the bill and submitted its report in December 2021. The withdrawal does not reflect well on the government, the entire process having been played out under its regime. This also increases uncertainty about the future of privacy regulation in India.

One way to understand this decision is to go back to the genesis of this law, which arose out of the Justice *K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India* case where the court held that the right to privacy had both a positive and negative aspect. The former implies the need for the state to actively take measures to protect an individual's privacy. Thus, the government was more or less forced to initiate the drafting of a data protection law. This experience also tells us something about the limits of judicial inducement for regulation, for which active effort of the other two branches of the state is needed. The options of delay and dilution are always available.

The scope of the law

The growing importance of the digital economy and the broad scope of the proposed law also contributed to contestations between stakeholders as the law was being deliberated. Shaped by different interests and incentives, the state, industry, and advocacy groups all have very different expectations of what a data protection law should look like. For instance, for domestic industry such a law represents a compliance hurdle which could put it at a disadvantage. However, a law can also promote regulatory certainty, thereby opening up the possibility of increased data flows and the growth of data processing business. For the state, a law could limit intrusive data processing by state agencies, but it could also promote geopolitical, strategic or regulatory interests. Similarly, individuals could benefit by the restrictions on harmful data processing, but on the other hand, a poorly drafted law could legitimise certain intrusive practices.

Each version of the law – the 2018 Bill of the Srikrishna Committee, the 2019 Bill introduced in Parliament, and the version of the JPC in 2021 – faced different types of critique from different stakeholders. For instance, law enforcement interests were seen as being obstructed by the 2018 draft, leading to broad exemptions being provided in the 2019 Bill.

However, what appears striking is the consistent dilution of the focus on data privacy from the 2018 version onwards. From being the centerpiece of the legislation, privacy protection was increasingly being seen as one of several objectives being pursued. This was seen most clearly in the JPC's recommendations, which sought to significantly revise the scope of the law. The JPC recommended moving away from a personal data protection law towards a law to govern the entire data ecosystem. It further suggested putting in place a number of broader restrictions on social media and other entities. This attempt to solve multiple problems in the digital ecosystem saw an already broad law being turned into an omnibus Bill. This made one question the ability to properly implement it. In addition, the provisions relating to many issues were lacking in detail. For example, the provisions related to processing of data by the state, governance of non-personal data and the regulation of social media could all have been fleshed out with greater substantive and procedural detail, which is required to balance the complex competing interests at hand.

The way forward

Looking forward, there are two critical issues - the form that a new law will take, and the nature of protections it will offer.

On the first issue, the government has suggested that it will introduce multiple legislation comprising a new comprehensive legal framework. This is the right approach, as trying to fit all objectives related to the digital ecosystem or even data governance into one Bill would be a mistake. It is healthy to maintain some polycentricity in the governance of a complex digital economy, and different laws and agencies should co-exist. It would be ideal if each bill addressed a single coherent set of objectives: For instance, one personal data protection bill should not be burdened with other objectives. Similarly, separate laws could deal with issues concerning state surveillance, or issues in the data economy such as dealing with competition-related concerns arising out of the monopolisation of data by certain entities. Over time, such a system may lead to more balanced and beneficial results. In the short term, however, the government would do well to put in place a specific personal data protection law - given the effort already dedicated to this (and the significant areas of agreement amongst stakeholders).

The second issue is the nature of privacy protection any new law will provide to individuals. The 2018 law, on which future drafts were based, borrowed heavily from the rights-based European General Data Protection Regulation. This framework was however criticised by some due to its perceived unviability in the Indian context. For instance, creating a cross-sectoral data protection entity with the power to take significant coercive action is seen as problematic given the rule of law, capacity and regulatory constraints in India. Some of these issues could be addressed in creating a new data privacy law.

First, it should build in a risk-based approach to data protection, so that the regulatory focus is directed towards addressing sources of potential harm. Second, based on risk assessments, the law could enable co-regulation and self-regulation (with the regulator acting as a backstop). These could reduce compliance burdens on entities without significantly affecting rights protection. Third, the current version of the law was weak on accountability measures for the data protection regulator. The new Bill should include more provisions to ensure that the regulator uses its powers well. These include provisions relating to appointments, consultations, reporting, and so on. Fourth, even while the law is being drafted, the government should invest in building some administrative capacity to implement it, so that when the law is eventually passed, implementation can begin soon after. This has been previously done with SEBI and PFRDA. Finally, it is vital that any new law is framed based on transparent and meaningful consultations with all stakeholders.

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Making bail impossible

In upholding the constitutionality of the PMLA, the court has resurrected the ghost of ADM Jabalpur

PRATEEK CHADHA

While upholding the right to privacy in 2017, the Supreme Court overruled the decision in *ADM Jabalpur v. Shivkant Shukla* (1976). However, the recent decision in *Vijay Madanlal Choudhary v. Union of India*, upholding the constitutionality of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), is proof that the ghost of *ADM Jabalpur* has been resurrected. The old maxim of bail being the norm and jail the exception has been judicially cremated with this decision. Bail is now not even an exception; it is impossible.

Draconian preconditions for bail

First, consider the draconian preconditions for the grant of bail in Section 45 of the PMLA. To be eligible for bail, the arrested person must persuade the court that there are reasonable grounds for believing that he is not guilty of the money laundering offences brought by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The onus is on the accused to prove that an event did not transpire. If he cannot do this, he will continue to languish in jail.

To justify this high bar, the court overturned its decision in *Nikesh Tarachand Shah v. Union of India* (2017) that had directed treating the offence of 'money laundering' as less heinous and therefore differently a crime from 'terrorism' under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA). The court stated that the offence of money laundering was as heinous as a terrorist act and as great a danger to the sovereignty and integrity of our country. In doing so, it ignored the fact that under the PMLA, money laundering also covers monies associated with offences relating to infringement of copyrights and trademarks, arts and antiquities, securities, information technology, companies, and air and water pollution.

The court also declared that the ED does not need to share the Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) with the accused. This is bizarre because the same notion of secrecy is not applicable to equivalent documents (FIRs) for agencies like the police and the Central Bureau of Investigation. The ECIR contains the rationale for the ED to register the offence. However, the court chose not to equate the ECIR with an FIR.

According to the court, the fundamental rights of the accused are satisfied if he is informed of the grounds of arrest at the time of arrest. However, there is no definition of what qualifies as grounds for arrest and how detailed such grounds need to be. Typically, criminal arrest memos will only inform the accused of the Section(s) under which the alleged offence is committed. Now, with the ED informing the accused that the arrest is on account of an offence under one or more Sections of the PMLA, the court seems to have judged that the fundamental rights of the accused have been upheld.

Rendering bail impossible

Put together, this means that once a person has been arrested under the PMLA, in order to get bail, he will have to show that he has not committed the offence that he stands accused of and he will also be unaware of the specifics of the offence he is alleged to have committed. He is oblivious of the transactions being investigated or the assets being labelled proceeds of crime. This renders bail impossible.

No judge can ever take the view that an accused has prima facie shown that he has not done what the ECIR alleges because no accused will ever be able to prove this if he does not even know what the ECIR contains. The result is that no accused will ever be able to obtain bail under the PMLA once the ED decides that he has committed an offence. To add to it, the accused can be 'persuaded' to sign confessional statements while in custody. Since the judgment considers the confessional statement to be admissible evidence, such evidence can be presented to the judge at a bail hearing as well.

The problem is compounded by the decision in *NIA v. Zahoor Watali* (2019), in which the court was considering the bail standard under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. It held that at the stage of bail, the court cannot enter into an appreciation of evidence, but only has to see whether a prima facie case against the accused is made out. But it also effectively held that in considering the prima facie case, the prosecution's version is sufficient, and that if the case diary or the charge sheet makes out sufficient grounds to deny bail (which it will, being a document created by the prosecution), it is reasonable to deny bail. Notwithstanding this, the UAPA accused is provided with a copy of the FIR, unlike the PMLA accused.

This means that when someone is arrested for an offence under the PMLA, he will be placed in prolonged incarceration without being told the specifics of why this is so. And no court will ever be able to reasonably conclude that the person is entitled to bail under the law as it now stands. *ADM Jabalpur* is dead. Long live *ADM Jabalpur*.

Prateek Chadha is an Advocate on Record at the Supreme Court. He appeared for some petitioners in Vijay Madanlal Choudhary v. Union of India

STATE OF PLAY

A row over gender-neutral uniforms

The LDF's challenge is to prevent religious groups from gaining political mileage from the issue

BIJU GOVIND

The stage seems set for a face-off between the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) and Muslim outfits over the draft proposals in the school curriculum framework being prepared by the State Council for Educational, Research and Training (SCERT). Recently, a meeting of various Muslim organisations under the aegis of the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) in Kozhikode decided to up the ante against the CPI(M)-led LDF government on the subject, especially the gender liberal ideology to be introduced in schools.

Incidentally two powerful rival Sunni organisations – the IUML- backed Samastha Kerala Jem-iyyathul Ulama and the All India Sunni Jamiyyathul Ulama led by Kanthapuram A. P. Aboobacker Musliyar – have sunk their differences over this issue. Even the Indian National League, a constituent of the LDF government, is fiercely opposing the proposals. Besides, representatives of the Kerala Nadvathul Mujhideen (Markazudawa), Wisdom Islamic Organisation, Jamaat-e-Islami, Muslim Educational Society, and the Muslim Service Society have come out against the revised curriculum. Simultaneously, major Muslim outfits are organising campaigns through mosques against gender-neutral uniforms and LGBTQ+. Also, the Samastha has planned to conduct a class for khatibs, who deliver the sermon during the Friday prayers, to discuss gender politics and homosexuality.

The remarks of the IUML leader M.K. Muneer that a unisex uniform was a LDF government ploy to promote denial of religion in schools has sparked a controversy. Often regarded as a progressive face among Muslim politicians, Dr. Muneer even asked why Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan was not wearing a sari and blouse to ensure gender neutrality.

Politically, the IUML leadership feels that it can seize the moment through the gender issue to revive its lost electoral ground in Malabar. Already the LDF government had repeatedly bowed before the organised pressure of Muslim groups – once to withdraw its decision to hand over Waqf Board appointments to the Public Service Commission, and then to remove IAS officer Sriram Venkitaraman as Alappuzha district Collector a week after his appointment.

The draft proposals initiated as part of the implementation of the National Education Policy of the Centre and the revision of syllabus by the State government are still not in the public domain. But portions of the framework, including suggestions that girls and boys share a bench in class, have been discussed in a section of the media.

The issue has to be read with a recent order of the Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights that had asked the General Education Department to convert schools exclusively for boys and girls into mixed institutions.

However, Minister for General Education V. Sivankutty has stated that the government will not impose any decision on gender neutrality in schools and it was up to the school authorities and parent-teacher associations to decide on gender-neutral uniforms, which already exist in many schools. Last December, the Muslim Students Federation, the student wing of the IUML, launched a protest when the Balussery Higher Secondary School in Kozhikode pioneered the concept of unisex uniforms for students in Class 11.

The progressive ideal of gender neutrality had been inconspicuously seeping into Kerala's consciousness. But when the ideal was projected as a policy formulation, all hell broke loose. The LDF government's challenge would be to move cautiously without giving leeway to religious and pressure groups to derive political mileage out of this.

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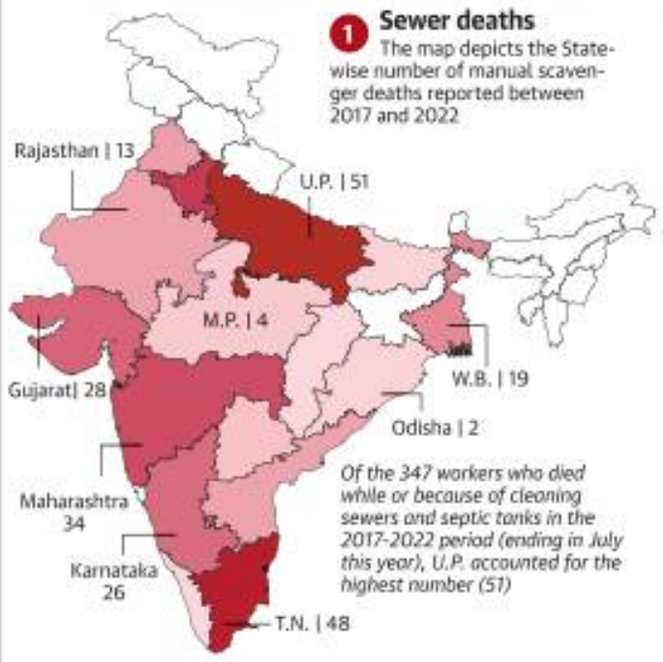
DATA POINT

The wretched of the earth

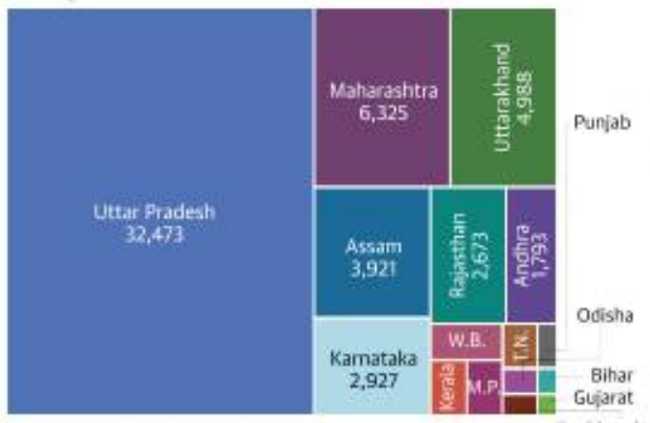
An answer in the Lok Sabha, quoting surveys conducted by the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry in 2013 and 2018, mentioned that there are over 58,000 people engaged in manual scavenging in India. Activists claim that this number remains an underestimate and that the practice is prevalent despite a 2013 law prohibiting such employment. The latest data show that 347 workers died while or because of cleaning sewers and septic tanks between 2017 and 2022. Uttar Pradesh, which had the largest share of manual scavengers, also reported the highest number of deaths. Of the total number of workers identified, the majority of them were Dalits. While a rehabilitation scheme has provided the workers with a one-time compensation, the capital subsidy has had few takers. By **Rebecca Rose Varghese**

1 Sewer deaths The map depicts the State-wise number of manual scavenger deaths reported between 2017 and 2022



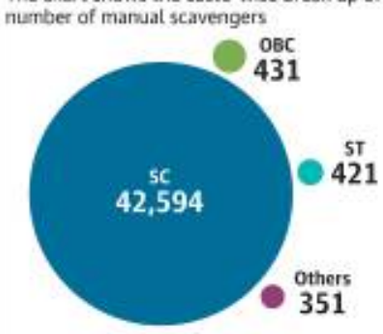
Of the 347 workers who died while or because of cleaning sewers and septic tanks in the 2017-2022 period (ending in July this year), U.P. accounted for the highest number (51)

2 Identified workers | More than 55% of the 58,098 manual scavengers identified were from Uttar Pradesh, according to a Lok Sabha reply in April 2022. The chart shows the number of manual scavengers identified in the 17 States where data were available

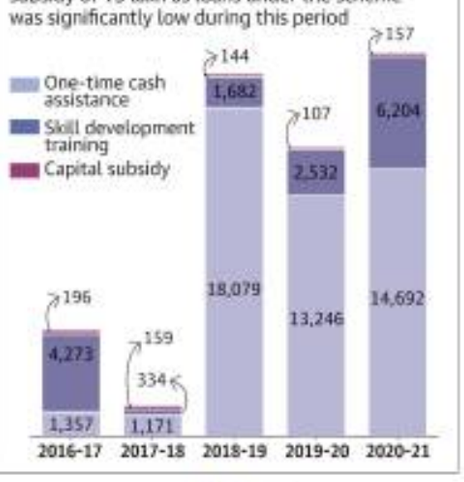


SOURCE: LOK SABHA, RAJYA SABHA

3 Caste-wise split of workers Of the 58,098 manual scavengers identified, more than 40,000 workers belong to the Scheduled Castes, while fewer than 1,000 belong to the Scheduled Tribes and OBCs combined. The chart shows the caste-wise break up of the number of manual scavengers



4 Rehabilitation of workers The Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) is expected to provide a one-time cash assistance of ₹40,000, skill development training, and capital subsidy for self-employment projects for workers. The chart depicts the coverage of the scheme. The government succeeded in providing cash assistance to the workers, especially in the last three years of the period considered. But the proportion of workers who received a capital subsidy of ₹5 lakh as loans under the scheme was significantly low during this period



The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 22, 1972

Attitude to rural service deplored

The Government can make appointments immediately of three to four thousand doctors if they are willing to serve in any part of the country, Mr. Uma Shankar Dikshit, Minister of Health and Family Planning, told the Rajya Sabha to-day. Replying to questions on the shortage of doctors in rural areas by Mr. Shamlal Gupta and others, the Minister said that the tendency on the part of doctors not to accept service in rural areas was "deplorable". Mr. Dikshit told Mr. Mahavir Tyagi that the State Governments had been asked to get bonds signed by all students of MBBS agreeing to serve in rural areas on completion of their studies. The Minister turned down Mr. Kalyan Roy's suggestion that qualified medical personnel should not be allowed to go out of the country to take up jobs. The Government was not in favour of exercising compulsion in this regard, he said. Mr. Dikshit said that according to figures of registration, there were about 4,000 unemployed doctors but the number might be larger. By way of incentives, he said, it was proposed during the Fifth Plan period to give a "difficult area allowance" of Rs. 150 per month to doctors posted in rural areas and also provide them free residential accommodation. The Minister told Mr. S.K. Raha that under the national health scheme for rural areas, now being worked out, it was proposed that State Governments should either levy a cess or raise resources by other ways including a graded charge for implementing it. This scheme, he told Mr. Suraj Prasad, provided for the employment of 250,000 registered medical practitioners in the Indian systems of medicine (ayurveda, unani and siddha) and homeopathy in three years beginning 1973-74.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 22, 1922

Mrs Sarojini Naidu

Mrs. Sarojini Naidu who has been suffering from severe heart troubles for the last two months in consequence of which she had to abstain from taking any active part in politics is proceeding to South India en-route from Tranquebar (Tanjore district) on medical advice for change of air and complete rest. As she has not yet recovered from her illness she has been strictly forbidden by her medical attendants from taking part in any activity whatsoever for at least another three months as her only chance to complete recovery lies in giving herself perfect rest.

FROM PAGE ONE

Huawei to dial down India R&D operations

Apart from Huawei, telecom majors ZTE, Vivo, Xiaomi and Oppo and other Chinese companies have had their offices searched in the past few months by teams from the Income Tax Department and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence.

Speaking to journalists in Delhi last week, Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong warned that the actions could "harm" Chinese interests, indicating that investment in India and the "Make in India" programme could be affected unless India provides an "open, fair and non-discriminatory" business environment.

The External Affairs Ministry declined to comment on the issue or the Ambassador's remarks.

A senior government official told *The Hindu* that tensions with China had led Indian agencies to take a closer look at Huawei and other Chinese companies. "Apart from tax-related misdemeanours, damaging evidence was uncovered regarding its role in furthering the aims of the Chinese state, inimical to national security," the official said.

In 2000, Huawei invested over $150 million to set up an R&D facility on 20 acres of land on the outskirts of Bengaluru. Although initially it had plans to ramp up its employees to over 10,000, it currently employs 3,500 engineers who work on diverse products and development activities. "Huawei pays well and takes care of its employees well. Therefore, the company enjoys a good retention ratio even in these days," B.S. Murthy, CEO of Leadership Capital, who used to hire for the firm, said. With plans to cut down the number of software engineers and product design teams, and another possible plan to lease out parts of its sprawling campus, the future of those jobs appears to be on the line.

CBI issues LoCs against 8 in excise policy case

The role of several other government servants and private persons is under investigation. The LoCs are opened by the law enforcement agencies and banks to either prevent a person of interest from leaving the country through the designated ports of entry-exit.

In the excise-policy case, the CBI questioned some of the accused to record their statements. On Friday, the agency conducted searches on their premises in various cities.

The FIR alleged that there were irregularities while modifying the excise policy. While undue favours were extended to the licence holders, licence fee was waived/reduced and L-1 licence extended without the competent authority's permission, it is alleged.

According to the agency, the Excise Department had decided to refund the earnest money deposit of about ₹30 crore to a successful tenderer against the extant rules. Despite the fact that there was no such provision, it allowed a waiver on tendered licence fee due to the COVID-19 pandemic from December 28, 2021, to January 27, which allegedly caused a loss of ₹144.36 crore to the exchequer.

The CBI has also alleged that Mr. Sisodia's close associates, Buddy Retail director Amit Arora, Dinesh Arora and Arjun Pandey, were actively involved in managing and diverting the undue pecuniary benefits collected from the private persons to the officials in question.

3 journalists booked over news report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
RAIPUR

The Madhya Pradesh Police on Saturday booked three journalists hailing from Bhind on charge of airing "misleading and false" information while reporting about a man who took his unwell father to hospital on a handcart as ambulances were allegedly unavailable .

Anil Sharma from *News18*, Kunjbihari Kourav from *Patrika*, and N.K. Bhatele from *Lalluram.com* were charged under the sections of the Indian Penal Code related to cheating and causing public mischief and the relevant provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2008.

The police took action three days after the report about Hari Singh was aired. In his interaction with the media, Mr. Singh said despite trying many times, he could not get through any ambulance provider. He was left with no choice but to use the cart.

The video was shared on social media and various agencies and portals covered the news.

Taking cognisance of the matter, District Collector Satish Kumar ordered a probe. The probe team found the news to be misleading and false and claimed that the family in question had been getting benefits of all government-run schemes.

Former MLA booked over lynching claim

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR

Gyan Dev Ahuja, former BJP MLA in Rajasthan who was caught on tape saying that his supporters have so far "lynched five persons" for cow smuggling, has been booked by the Alwar Police for allegedly promoting hatred and enmity.

Shiv Shankar, Station House Officer of the Govindgarh police station, said the case was registered by the police on the basis of the video which surfaced after he visited the family of 45-year-old Chiranjilal Saini, who was lynched by Mev Muslim community members on suspicion of a tractor theft, last Friday. Mr. Saini died during treatment at Jaipur's State-run SMS Hospital on Monday.

Mr. Shankar said the FIR was registered under Section IPC 153-A for promoting hatred and enmity on grounds of religion. In the video, the BJP leader was seen making the comment while interrupting a speaker, who was urging a group of people to launch an agitation against the lynching of Mr. Saini. "We have so far lynched five persons, be it in Lawandi or Behror. This has happened for the first time in this area. I have given free hand to workers to kill. We will get them acquitted and secure bail," the MLA was seen saying in the video. As the remarks sparked a controversy, BJP's Alwar (South) chief Sanjay Singh Naruka said that the party "does not have this thinking".

"These are his own views," he added.

Death toll in Himachal floods rises to 27

Six persons still remain untraced as weather relents on Sunday; IMD predicts more rainfall for State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The death toll in the incessant rain reached 27 in Himachal Pradesh on Sunday. While two people were injured, at least six are missing, the government said in a statement.

As many as 46 incidents of landslips, flash floods, cloudbursts and road accidents were reported in the State in the past two days. Mandi, Kangra, Chamba, Kullu, Hamirpur and Shimla districts have been the worst affected. Several rivers and rivulets are in spate even as the rain relatively relented on Sunday. At least 52 houses collapsed, while eight vehicles were damaged in rain-related incidents, the State Disaster Management Authority said. Principal Secretary (Revenue) Onkar Sharma said ₹232.31 crore had been released from the State Disaster Response Fund to the affected districts.

Under the debris: NDRF personnel carrying out search and rescue operation following flash floods at Gwad in Tehri Garhwal district in Uttarakhand on Sunday. • PTI

'300% more rain'

Surinder Pal, Director, India Meteorological Department (IMD), Shimla, said that the State experienced a record-breaking single-day rainfall on Saturday, which was almost a "300% departure on the higher side than normal" during this period.

"The overall rainfall on Sunday was relatively less than yesterday [Saturday] across the State. There will be light to moderate rainfall in the next 24 hours in many places of the State. Between August 23 and 26, the rain is expected to pick up again," he said.

Amid the unprecedented rain lashing the State, All India Congress Committee spokesperson Kuldeep Singh Rathore asked the State government to seek financial assistance from the Centre.

"The State government should immediately ask the Central government for relief package and start relief work on a war footing and restore transportation, as well as give financial assistance to those families who have lost precious lives and property," he said.

The neighbouring State of Uttarakhand too intensified efforts to trace people missing in rain-related incidents. On Sunday, 24 tourists stranded at a resort in Dehradun were evacuated. A series of cloudbursts had hit Dehradun, Tehri Garhwal and Pauri Garhwal on Saturday, killing four people. Five people are still missing in Gwad village of Tehri Garhwal district and seven in Maldevta and Raipur areas of Dehradun.

(With PTI inputs)

CBI arrests 2 Army men on graft charges

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The CBI on Sunday arrested a Lieutenant Colonel, a Subedar Major and two private contractors for allegedly receiving a bribe of ₹22.48 lakh to ensure that most of the tenders related to the Ambala Cantonment were awarded to them.

Subsequent searches on the premises of the accused led to further seizure of ₹48.50 lakh in cash.

They have been identified as Lt. Colonel Rahul Pawar, Senior Barracks Store Officer, Subedar Major Pradeep Kumar, both from the Military Engineer Services (MES), Dinesh Kumar and Pritpal.

"During the searches in Ambala and Kurukhetra, ₹32.50 lakh was found on the premises of the Lt. Col. and ₹16 lakh from the contractors," said an official.

Not planning to levy charges on UPI: govt.

RBI had floated the idea in a paper

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Sunday called UPI services a "digital public good", and said the government was not considering levying charges for them. The statement comes four days after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) floated a discussion paper on levying charges in payment systems such as the UPI, NEFT and IMPS. While officials aware of the deliberations behind the central bank's discussion paper said the idea was only to help firms providing UPI services recover their operational costs, perhaps by levying a charge as low as one paisa or two per transaction, the Ministry said these concerns could be addressed through other solutions.

"UPI is a digital public good with immense convenience for the public and productivity gains for the economy. There is no consideration in Govt to levy any charges for UPI services," the Ministry said.

"The concerns of the service providers for cost recovery have to be met through other means," the Ministry said, adding that the government had provided financial support for digital payment ecosystem last year as well as this year to encourage their further adoption and promotion of payment platforms that are "economical and user-friendly". On August 17, the RBI issued a discussion paper on charges in payment systems, stating that such charges should be reasonable and competitively determined for users.

"To ensure this balance, it was considered useful to carry out a comprehensive review of the various charges levied in the payment systems by highlighting different dimensions and seeking stakeholder feedback," it noted, adding that consumer complaints about such services are "generally about high and non-transparent" charges.

Kalyan Singh statue unveiled

MAYANK KUMAR
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath unveiled a statue of Kalyan Singh in Lucknow on Sunday on the first death anniversary of the former Chief Minister and BJP leader from the Other Backward Classes.

Addressing a gathering after unveiling the statue at a cancer institute named after Singh, Mr. Adityanath recalled the role played by the leader for the development of Uttar Pradesh. "Under the able leadership of the late *Babuji* [Kalyan Singh], the road map for good governance was laid in the State."

Through the event, the ruling BJP has begun a tacit outreach towards the OBC community with an eye on the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

"We have decided that the Bulandshahr medical college will be named after *Babuji* and a similar statue will be installed there," he said.

In jolt to Cong., Sharma does an Azad by quitting key post

Action comes as Congress prepares for party president polls

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In a sign of growing trouble for the Congress, senior leader Anand Sharma on Sunday resigned as the chairman of the steering committee for Himachal Pradesh where elections are expected by the end of the year. Mr. Sharma's resignation letter comes just days after his colleague Ghulam Nabi Azad resigned from the chairmanship of the campaign committee for Jammu and Kashmir.

Timing crucial

The timing of these developments assume special political significance as it comes just when the Congress gets ready to declare its final schedule to elect a new party president. Both Mr. Azad and Mr. Sharma are key members of G-23, the ginger group of 23 members that had written to party president Sonia Gandhi two years ago to push for internal reforms, including having elected bodies from the Block level to the Congress Working Committee (CWC).

In his resignation letter, Mr. Sharma is said to have told Ms. Gandhi that he felt "humiliated and his self-respect was non-negotiable". However, he assured her that he will continue to campaign for the party candidates in the State.

Coming, as it does, in the middle of organisational changes, the latest round of resignations by prominent G-23 faces could set the stage for another round of confrontation between reformists and the loyalists of the Gandhi family.

Internal conspiracy

"There is an internal conspiracy to sabotage Congress' winning prospects with the help of people inimical to the Congress," Mr. Sharma, a member of the CWC, told *The Hindu*.

"My colleagues and I are determined to resist it and will expose them," he added.

In a series of tweets, Mr. Sharma said, "I have resigned with a heavy heart from the Chairmanship of the Steering Committee of the Congress for the Himachal Elections. Reiterating that I am a lifelong congressman and remain firm on my convictions".

"Committed to Congress ideology that runs in my blood, let there be no doubts about this! However, given the continuing exclusion and insults, as a self-respecting person- I was left with no choice," he added.

Mr. Sharma, who was appointed as the head of the Steering Committee on April 26 this year, didn't elaborate on the 'insults' publicly but he is said to have mentioned them in detail in his letter to the Congress president.

Sources close to Mr. Sharma said he was never invited to the meetings of the core group of Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee (HPCC) on election strategy and preparations that were held in Delhi as well as in Shimla.

Delhi Police detain Tikait on way to stir

Police, working at Centre's behest, cannot stifle voice of farmers, says BKU leader

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait was detained at the Ghazipur boundary on Sunday while he was entering the capital to attend an unemployment protest at Jantar Mantar, the police said.

A senior police officer said Mr. Tikait was detained while he was coming to attend a protest, or mahapanchayat, against unemployment in the national capital.

Farmer leader Rakesh Tikait after being detained by the Delhi Police near Ghazipur on Sunday. • TWITTER/@RAKESHTIKAITBKU

'Undue gathering'

"He was stopped at the Ghazipur border in the afternoon after which he was taken to the Madhu Vihar police station. The police asked him to return to which he agreed and has been escorted back," a senior officer said.

Sources said Mr. Tikait was prevented from entering the capital in order to prevent any law and order situation due to the "undue gathering" in the city.

Meanwhile, Mr. Tikait in a Twitter post alleged that the Delhi Police are working at the behest of the Central government and that the voice of the farmers cannot be stifled.

"The Delhi Police which are working at the behest of the government cannot stifle the voice of farmers. The arrest will bring in a new revolution. This struggle will continue till the last breath. Won't stop, won't get tired, won't bow down," Mr. Tikait said in a tweet in Hindi.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer) Sameer Sharma said that Outer district had made several arrangements in view of the mahapanchayat (unemployment protest) at Jantar Mantar by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha and other farmer groups.

"According to sources, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) and other farmer groups are going to organise a mahapanchayat at Jantar Mantar on August 22 and they will pass through the jurisdiction of Outer district," the DCP said.

He said adequate deployment of local police and outside force will be made in the area of Outer district, at the Tikri boundary, major intersections, along railway tracks and metro stations, to avoid any untoward incident. "A foolproof law and order arrangement has already been issued in this regard," the DCP said.

Meghalaya, Assam CMs hold talks

Ninth meeting to resolve border issue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Meghalaya counterpart Conrad K. Sangma have decided to visit the disputed sectors along the inter-State boundary for building the confidence of the stakeholders.

The two Chief Ministers held the ninth Chief Minister-level meeting in Guwahati on Sunday for resolving the remaining six of the 12 disputed areas along the 885 km boundary between the two States.

The disputes in the six "less complicated" sectors were resolved with the signing of an agreement in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah on March 29.

Solution to conflicts

Following the formula applied to iron out the differences in the first six sectors, the two Chief Ministers decided to form three regional-level committees each for finding a solution to the recurring conflicts in the six "complicated" sectors.

"The committees will be headed by Cabinet Ministers of each State. Members from the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council will be included as three of the six disputed sites are within the council's jurisdiction," Mr. Sarma said.

Regional committees

The regional committees will be notified by both the governments within 15 days, he added.

The process to resolve the disputes is expected to begin with goodwill visits of the two Chief Ministers to the areas of difference to "talk to the local people" for building their confidence.

The officials who attended the meeting included Assam Chief Secretary Jishnu Baruah and his Meghalaya counterpart D.P. Wahlang.

Sorry for daughter's behaviour: Mizoram CM

Members of IMA wore black badges to work in protest and demanded action

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga has issued a public apology for his daughter's "misbehaviour" with a dermatologist in the State capital, Aizawl, a few days ago.

In a video that went viral on social media, his daughter Milari Chhangte was seen assaulting the skin doctor at a clinic.

According to reports, she was upset after the dermatologist asked her to take an appointment prior to visiting the clinic for consultation.

Zoramthanga

"We have nothing to justify or say in defence of our daughter's behaviour towards the doctor. We ask forgiveness from the doctor and the public," Mr. Zoramthanga said in a hand-written note posted on Instagram on Saturday evening.

He also said he had visited the dermatologist and apologised to him.

The incident had triggered outrage among the doctors in Aizawl with some 800 of them staging a protest and condemning the assault on Saturday.

Protest by IMA

Members of the Mizoram chapter of the Indian Medical Association also wore black badges to their workplaces as a sign of protest. "We want such acts of violence against medical practitioners not to be repeated," the Indian Medical Association said in a statement.

APPEAL

Baby Mathiksha is 3 years old suffering from Acute Myeloid Leukemia. She has to undergo Chemotherapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. Her family cannot afford the huge cost of **Rs.8,00,000/-**. She needs your blessings and support. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No.60182010053310, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd. Public Charitable Trust. **Flat No.GF 1, Cordel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/28235324/7338978027. E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com** Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org

WWS

'If Opposition agrees, Nitish can be a strong candidate for PM'

He enjoys immense goodwill on the ground, says Bihar Deputy CM Tejashwi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar could emerge as a "strong candidate" for Prime Minister in 2024 if the Opposition parties agreed to consider him for the job, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav said on Sunday.

New equation: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar with Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav at a function in Patna, in this file photo.

Mr. Kumar, who recently swapped alliance partners by dumping the BJP and returning – for a second time – to the RJD-led *Mahagatbandhan* in Bihar, enjoys "immense goodwill" on the ground, Mr. Yadav said in an interview.

The coming to power of the *Mahagatbandhan*, which now comprises the Janata Dal(U), the RJD, the Congress and several small parties in Bihar, "augurs well for Opposition unity", said Mr. Yadav, who has made a comeback as Deputy Chief Minister in Bihar's new government. "It signals that most of the Opposition parties recognise the larger challenge before the country – the hegemony of the BJP, where on the back of money, media, and (administrative) machinery power, they are determined to stamp out all diversity from the Indian society as well as from the political spectrum," he said.

It is also a question of regional representation and social justice and development issues at the level of States, Mr. Yadav said. "For all their talk of cooperative federalism, the BJP's attempt has been to consistently ignore regional disparities. Bihar needs special attention, nobody can deny it. But have we got anything from the Centre? Not quite."

'Tired discourse'

Mr. Yadav dismissed the BJP's attempt to spread the fear that "Jungle Raj will be back" with the return of the *Mahagatbandhan* government. "Jungle Raj" refers to the alleged state of lawlessness in Bihar when the RJD was in power in the State.

It is a "tired discourse" and a "classic case of crying wolf", he said.

The RJD leader underlined that regional parties and other progressive political groups have to look beyond their narrow gains and losses and save the republic, asserting that it will be very difficult to rebuild if "we don't stop the destruction in its tracks now".

Asked if Mr. Kumar is best-suited to be Prime Ministerial candidate for the 2024 election and if he could be the Opposition's nominee, Mr. Yadav said, "I leave this question for Honourable Nitish*ji*. I cannot claim to speak on behalf of the entire Opposition, however, if considered, respected Nitish*ji* definitely might be a strong candidate."

'Forcible' Aadhaar-voter ID linking

While the govt. says the process is voluntary, reports of coercion emerge

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Despite clarifications from various government authorities that the linking of Aadhaar with the voter identity card is "voluntary", there have been instances of people being warned by booth-level officers that their voter ID would be cancelled if the linking is not done.

The ECI started a campaign on August 1 for the linking of Aadhaar details with the voter ID. • REPRESENTATIVE PHOTO

In a tweet about one such case, the Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF), which advocates digital rights and privacy, alleged that a booth-level officer called one of its staff members seeking the Aadhaar number, threatening that "or else they'll be deleted from the electoral roll".

The contentious Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which allows for the linking of electoral data with the Aadhaar number, was passed by Parliament in December 2021, amid strong protests by the Opposition.

At the time, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju informed Parliament that linking would be voluntary.

Responding to the tweet thread by the IFF, the Chief Electoral Officer of Haryana reiterated the same.

"Submission of Aadhaar number in Form 6B is voluntary. No entry in electoral roll shall be deleted on the ground of non-submission of Aadhaar number. Purpose of obtaining Aadhaar number is for authentication of electors' entries in electoral roll & extending better electoral services," the CEO said in a tweet.

Replying to a similar tweet on the issue by a different account, the Chief Electoral Officer of Delhi said that the matter had been "noted to seek more details".

"Linking of Voter id with AADHAAR is voluntary..." the tweet added.

New form

However, the IFF pointed out that the Union Law and Justice Ministry recently amended Form 6, and introduced Form 6B to the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. "These forms make it compulsory for those who have Aadhaar to provide their Aadhaar numbers in order to vote," it noted.

The Election Commission of India started a campaign on August 1 for the "voluntary" linking of Aadhaar details with the voter ID. As part of the campaign, the commission has set up camps and begun door-to-door collection of data. It has collected over 2.5 crore Aadhaar details till August 11.

Mr Rijiju told Parliament in August that the reasons for linking voter IDs with Aadhaar numbers were to streamline electoral rolls and the process of registration of migrated voters without duplication in the rolls and to curb the menace of multiple enrolment of the same person in different places.

The move, however, has drawn flak from sections of society citing violations to an individual's right to privacy. Many have also flagged concerns that the linkage would help in creating voter profiles which may be used to influence the voting process.

Poor being bled dry by litigation: CJI-designate

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India-designate Justice U.U. Lalit on Sunday said over 70% of the population is below the poverty line but only 12% of them opt for legal aid.

Justice Lalit, who is the Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority, said this while formally launching the Legal Aid Defense Counsel System (LADCS) system. He said the legal aid system had increased its reach over the years, but the poor were still bled dry by litigation, especially in criminal cases.

"Over 70% population is below poverty line but only 12% opt for legal aid. What does the population between 12% to 70% do? They are forced to opt for private lawyers. Litigation is like a bleeding wound – the more you let it bleed, the more the man will suffer," he said.

Scrap GST on unbranded food items, Gehlot writes to Nirmala

Rajasthan Chief Minister points out that the State had 'vehemently' opposed the levy which would hit the people hard

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has urged Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to reconsider the move to levy GST on unbranded and pre-packed food items, asserting that the State had "vehemently" opposed the levy that "is going to hit the people hard".

Mr. Gehlot, in a letter sent earlier this month, said the State had requested the GST Council as well as its Group of Ministers (GoM), led by Karnataka Chief Minister S.R. Bommai, which proposed the tax on unbranded food items such as curd, *lassi* and foodgrains, to defer deliberations on these levies as it was "not the right time" in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On July 19, a day after the GST on these items kicked in, Ms. Sitharaman had said that the GST Council's decision at its meeting in late June was unanimous with consensus from all the States, and was aimed at curbing rampant tax evasion. These food items continue to remain tax-free when sold loose, she had said, a point she also emphasised in Parliament during the debate on price rise to stress that the poor would not be burdened by the tax.

In the August 5 missive to Ms. Sitharaman, Mr. Gehlot said the upward revision in the GST rates on pre-packaged and labelled products such as buttermilk, jaggery and cereals and flour, would hit the people hard. While these items are consumed by all segments of society, even people from the lower income bracket would face increased hardship, he said.

'Defer deliberations'

Asking Ms. Sitharaman to refer to the minutes of the meetings of the GoM held in November 2021 and June 2022, the Chief Minister of the Congress-ruled State said: "You will recall that Government of Rajasthan in all meetings of the GoM constituted for the deliberations on rate rationalisation had vehemently opposed any upward revision of tax rates. We had also requested the Council as well as GoM that in aftermath of COVID, it is not the right time for increase in tax burden and the deliberations should be deferred at least for one year."

This stance, he added, had been reiterated at the Council's 47th meeting in Chandigarh, but the taxes were notified by the Centre on July 13 on the basis of the Council's recommendations. "Though the State had to issue commensurate notifications to give effect to the unified rate structure, we still are not in favour of this upward revision," he said.

On the draw

BJP faces a tricky balancing act in M.P.

Controversy over remarks by now-expelled OBC leader against Brahmins continues

SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR
RAIPUR

Following the uproar over statements by key OBC leader Pritam Singh Lodhi against Brahmins and women last week, the Madhya Pradesh BJP on Friday expelled him for six years. The controversy, however, has refused to die down despite his expulsion or the first information report that Mr. Lodhi faces.

Mr. Lodhi, who had earlier said that he was apologising to the community and was even willing to place his head at their feet, is now on the offensive. He flexed his muscles with a show of support in Gwalior on Saturday. Addressing his supporters, he said that his fight was for the downtrodden and that he was "ready to spill the last drop of his blood" to continue the fight, even as he questioned the alleged double standards of "influential people", a reference to Brahmin leaders and the State BJP leadership.

He said that while he faced an FIR for his words that merely intended to explain a point to poor people in the audience, those who threatened him do not face such consequences. "Bageshwar Dham Sarkar, who openly threatened me in front of his disciples, does not face such prospects. This country cannot have different laws for different persons," Mr. Lodhi said.

Mr. Sarkar is a popular religious preacher from Chhatarpur who has substantial clout in the ruling BJP and counts Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra among his followers. The Akhil Bharatiya Brahmin Samaj has now demanded that the National Security Act be slapped on Mr. Lodhi for his statement against Mr. Sarkar.

An aggressive stance by Mr. Lodhi and the demand by some Brahmin groups and even voices within the party for further action against him have concerned the BJP. Some leaders in the Congress, which was thus far attacking Mr. Lodhi's statements on Brahmins, are questioning his expulsion when "many Brahmin leaders who make controversial statements stay on".

A video of Mr. Lodhi, purportedly from an event on August 17 at Badarwas in Shivpuri, went viral. In that, he could be heard saying that Brahmin priests make people crazy, fool them, and loot their money and foodgrains. He also said that some of them stare at women and make young women sit in the front rows during discourses.

OBCs constitute well over half of the population.

Lodhi's importance

Mr. Lodhi faced defeat in two elections from Pichhore in Shivpuri district. However, he is considered a prominent leader of the Lodhi community, a numerically strong sub-set of the Other Backward Classes, who constitute well over half the State's population. The fact that he is related to veteran BJP leader and former Chief Minister Uma Bharti also adds to his heft, BJP leaders say.

On the other end of the spectrum are Brahmin and upper caste voters that the BJP is trying to keep together. The party fears that if Lodhis and other OBC groups rally behind Mr. Lodhi, an OBC versus Brahmin situation can be created, which is not a welcome sign.

"For us, this situation is a throwback to another controversial statement in 2016, when Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that until he was there, no one could end reservations. That was damaging in the 2018 elections, when we were virtually wiped out in the Gwalior-Chambal region, with upper castes voting for the Congress," a party functionary said.

He added that the Brahmin vote in Madhya Pradesh could not be seen in isolation. The stance taken by the community percolates down to all the General Category votes.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
MARKETING DEPARTMENT

e-Procurement Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited for supply of "1,20,000 Kgs of Cashew Splits "S" grade through e-tenders-cum-e-reverse tendering" for a period of 01 month to the Marketing Department, T.T.Devasthanams. For Tender notice and tender details log on to the website http://www.tirumala.org and https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in. For further details contact Phone numbers: 0877-2264079, 2264555, Fax No.0877-2264554.

Roc.No.PR/413945/Adv.No.187/PRO/2022, Dated: 21.08.2022 — EXECUTIVE OFFICER

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER PROJECT,
PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, JODHPUR
Tel. 0291-2651700 E-mail : rj_cejod@nic.in

Notice Inviting Bid (NIB No. 17/2022-23)

Bid for "**Execution of work of Narmada Based Transmission & Cluster Water Supply Project of Sheo & Ramsar Tehsils District Barmer, Cluster Distribution, internal village pipe distribution and Geo-Tagging along with construction of CWR and Pumping Stations and providing FHTCs in 217 villages of District Barmer etc. complete job including one year defect liability Period followed by Operation and Maintenance for 10 years of facilities executed up to Village Transfer Chambers under Jal Jeevan Mission." having estimated Cost- Rs. 131.97 Cr.** is invited from interested bidder upto 14:00 hrs, 14/9/2022. Other particulars of the bid and subsequent amendments/ corrigendum issued (if any) may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in**) of the state;

UBN : PHE2223WLOB05254
NIB Code : PHE2223A2600

Chief Engineer Project
PHED Jodhpur

DIPR/C/10673

OFFICE OF ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, WATER RESOURCES ZONE, UDAIPUR
Near Akashvani, Chetak Circle, Udaipur (Rajasthan) 313001

Phone no. : 0294-2528265 — Email :- aceudaipur2019@gmail.com
No.-ACE/Actt./Mahi/2022/12212 — Dated:- 05.08.2022

E-NIT No. 06/2022-23

Bids for the works mentioned below are invited from interested bidders upto dated 01.09.2022 till 06:00 PM

S. No.	Name of Work	Bid Value (Lakh)
1	Rehabilitation and Renovation of Arthuna Distributary RD 20 km to tail and its distribution system (CMBA22-23/Package-XI)	2262.68
2	Rehabilitation and Renovation of Parsoliya Distributary and its distribution system (CMBA22-23/Package-XII)	3174.63

Other particulars of bid may be visited on the Procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in & www.water.rajasthan.gov.in/wrd.

UBN:- 1. WRD2223WLOB01053
2. WRD2223WLOB01054

(Bhuvan Bhasker)
Additional Chief Engineer
Water Resources Zone, Udaipur

DIPR/C/10585

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PHED CIRCLE NCR ALWAR
PHED CAMPUS, MANU MARG ALWAR (RAJ.)
E-Mail- sencr.alw.phed@rajasthan.gov.in

No- 2444-2462 — Date- 10/8/2022

NOTICE INVITING BID (NIT No. 177-199 / 2022-23)

Bids for Works of Construction of Source, PLI of Rising Main & Distribution Pipe Line with FHTC, Construction of Reservoir for Various villages are invited from interested bidders upto 05:00 PM on Date 12.09.2022. Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in**) of the state and **https://phedwater.rajasthan.gov.in** departmental website.

UBN:-

NIB Code PHE2223A2526

UBN:- PHE2223WSOB05182, PHE2223WSOB05185, PHE2223WSOB05202, PHE2223WSOB05189, PHE2223WSOB05190, PHE2223WSOB05255, PHE2223WSOB05256, PHE2223WSOB05257, PHE2223WSOB05258, PHE2223WSOB05259, PHE2223WSOB05260, PHE2223WSOB05261, PHE2223WSOB05262, PHE2223WSOB05263, PHE2223WSOB05264, PHE2223WSOB05265, PHE2223WSOB05266, PHE2223WSOB05267, PHE2223WSOB05268, PHE2223WSOB05269, PHE2223WSOB05218, PHE2223WSOB05192, PHE2223WSOB05270

Superintending Engineer
PHED Circle, NCR Alwar

DIPR/C/10667

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NADI TECHNOLOGIES PVT. LTD.

COCHIN SHIPYARD LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)

No: INFRA/ISRF/234/2022 — 19/08/2022

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed competitive tenders are invited from experienced firms / contractors for the work of "EXECUTION OF REMAINING PART OF TURNKEY WORK FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, SUPPLY, ERECTION & COMMISSIONING OF PLANT & MACHINERY FOR INTERNATIONAL SHIP REPAIR FACILITY (ISRF)". The balance works involves construction of RCC deck work stations with cast in situ/ precast elements, afloat repair berths, industrial buildings, internal road works, utility trenches, providing utility services such as electrical, firefighting, gas etc. The PAC is Rs.240 Crores. The details of tender and documents can be obtained from the Infra Projects Dept. or can be downloaded from website www.cochinshipyard.in and https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app. Last date of submission of tender is **15:00 hrs on 30/09/2022.** Sd/-
GM (Tech & Infra Projects)

Office of the Chief Engineer, PMC, RRWS & FMP
PHED, Nagaur
Email:- cepmcnagaur@gmail.com

Sr. No. CE/PMC/Nagaur/JJM/CDS-04/2022-23/2214-2236 — Dated 12/08/2022

Notice Inviting Bid No. 01/2022-23

Online bids are invited on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan from eligible enlisted "AA" class contractors of PHED, Rajasthan meeting eligibility criteria. Contractors enlisted with other department of Government of Rajasthan or enlisted with CPWD/ Postal/Telecom/ Railways/ MES/ other State Government/ Central Government undertakings/ organization in class equivalent to "AA" class of Rajasthan and meeting prescribed eligibility criteria may also apply after depositing prescribed Bid Security. Details of this Bid notification and pre-qualification criteria can also be seen in NIB exhibited on web site www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in Bids are to be submitted online electronic format on web site http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.

NIB No	Particulars of work	NIB Cost
01/2022-23	Bid on Lump Sum Turn-key (Design Build) basis for the Retrofitting Work for Providing Water Supply through FHTCs in 10 NRVs & 323 Other Habitations of Degana, Nagaur, Bherunda, Riyan & Jayal Blocks of District Nagaur including work of Transmission main, rising mains, Construction of New OHSRs, connecting these new OHSRs with existing and new Rising Mains, Pipeline from OHSRs to VTCs, Internal village distribution network, providing/ replacement of transmission Pumps/cluster pumps/ online boosters and Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) including all material and labour, one year defect liability period after completion and thereafter 10 Years O & M of assets on Single point responsibility. Turnkey Lump Sum Basis under Jal Jeevan Mission for Degana, Nagaur, Bherunda, Riyan & Jayal Blocks of District Nagaur (Phase-II, Package-7, CDS-04)	Rs. 93.99 Crores

NIB Code:- PHE2223A2616
UBN :- PHE 2223WLOB05294
DIPR/C/10716

(Sandeep Sharma)
Chief Engineer
PMC, RRWS & FMP
PHED, Nagaur

Crammed together in dingy camp, life swings from hope to despair for Rohingya

Rehabilitation or deportation? Minister's tweet warms refugees' heart, but Home Ministry's tough stance throws cold water on their future prospects

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

For Mariyam, a mother deserted by her husband, it was not easy to build a ladder. The one she made herself by hammering together pieces of damaged furniture is now a lifeline whenever it rains and her tent gets flooded. In the tiny room made of bamboo sticks, plastic sheets and old bedsheets, she has managed to add another makeshift floor. The steep ladder is her bridge away from the outside world. On a worn-out mat, she plays with her pet cat.

"I may not get food every day, but I ensure my cat has. Allah is there to feed everyone," Mariyam, a ragpicker, says.

Like hundreds of other Rohingya, Mariyam has been living in the congested and poorly ventilated tents along the Yamuna at Madanpur Khadar in Delhi over a year.

Their previous tents, located on Uttar Pradesh government land, were destroyed in a mysterious fire on June 13, 2021. Overnight, they were shifted by the Delhi government officials and the Delhi Police to a nearby piece of land owned by the Zakat Foundation of India, a non-governmental organisation.

There is no toilet in the entire camp. "We urinate on old clothes and then either wash, or throw, them away," says Miza, a 20-year-old who studied in a private school nearby and can read and write English.

A mobile toilet is stationed a few hundred metres away, but Ms. Miza says that it is not possible for women, children and the elderly to frequent it.

Pointing to a square shape in her tent, Mariyam says it is the spot where she bathes. Next to it is the kitchen where she stores the essentials.

Happiness among penury: Children playing at a Rohingya camp in Delhi. • R.V. MOORTHY

Outside the tent lay a common mud stove where the inmates take turns cooking.

Detention centre

After arriving in Delhi in 2012, nearly 1,200 Rohingya have been living in temporary shelters on the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh boundary.

From Myanmar, they first went to Bangladesh on boats and then entered India through the porous border, making their way to many parts of the country, even Jammu, Telangana and Rajasthan.

The 50-odd tents that house close to 350 people on ZFI land are at the centre of a political storm. The Union Home Ministry has asked the Delhi government to designate the camps as a detention centre. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Delhi has retorted that such a designation is done by the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), under the Home Ministry, and it has no powers.

ZFI president Syed Zafar Mahmood says the police forcibly settled the Rohingya on its land.

The Ministry did not respond to a query on how the land owned by a private organisation would be designated a detention centre.

The FRRO, on the other hand, has for the past year been searching for a secure place to hold all the 1,200 Rohingya at a detention centre under the constant vigil of the police.

Miza says 365 people lived in this camp which included 50 schoolchildren. After the fire in 2021, a police post was set up near the camp.

SPECIAL

"I have been living in this area for the past 10 years. I studied in a school nearby. We never faced any discrimination. India is our home," Miza, who has now enrolled herself in Class 10, says.

She says she came here as a toddler and is used to the headcount by the police, but the frequency of the police visits have increased after 2017.

"The police are here every day, sometimes they come twice a day. The visits increased post lockdown (2020)," says Taslima, another resident.

She says her husband works as a plumber. "My two children were born in India. We learnt Hindi here. How can they send us back to the country that does not want us," she asks when told about the Indian government's decision to deport them.

Miza intervenes, saying back home they were not even allowed to sit or talk in a group.

Miza's eyes light up as she refers to the August 17 tweet by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri that the Rohingya would be moved to flats. "India has always welcomed those who have sought refuge in the country," the Minister had tweeted.

Her joy was short-lived though. The Home Ministry, facing backlash from several quarters, including the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, announced that the Rohingya would be deported soon.

As of now, the inmates depend on food assistance from the UN and some NGOs. The men do odd jobs in the nearby Shaheen Bagh and Jamia Nagar areas.

All of them have identity cards provided by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, a prized possession. "We cannot afford to lose these cards; our survival depends on them," says Fatima, as she pulls out her card wrapped in layers of plastic sheets.

Till two years ago, the UN was providing them with cash too. "Now only the elderly get a stipend of ₹4,800. We get 20 kg of rice and 3 kg each of pulses, salt, and oil from the UN, but the frequency is erratic. The last we got the supplies was two months ago," says Mariyam.

The residents of the area fume at the presence of the Rohingya. "We heard these people are being shifted to some flat in Bakkarwala. I will distribute sweets if this happens," a resident says.

IN BRIEF

Mobile Internet shut to hold exam in Assam

GUWAHATI

The Assam government suspended mobile Internet connectivity for nearly four hours in 25 districts on Sunday for conducting the government recruitment exams to fill nearly 30,000 Grade 3 and 4 posts in various departments. It drew criticism for the move, with the Congress pointing out that mobile phones were not allowed inside exam centres.

Govt. proposes centres for specialised care

NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has drawn up a proposal to set up two tertiary-level centres for treatment of people exposed to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents or attacks. A detailed project report for setting up the facilities at Stanley Medical College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu and the AIIMS Jhajjar Campus has been readied.

Zomato withdraws 'Mahakal' advertisement

BHOPAL

Amid a row, online food delivery firm Zomato has withdrawn the advertisement featuring actor Hrithik Roshan and apologised clarifying that the 'Mahakal' reference was for a restaurant and not the temple. "We deeply respect the sentiments of the people of Ujjain and the ad in question is no longer running," the food delivery firm said.

'India-China ties can't be a one-way street'

Minister talks of disregarded pacts and need for respect

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SAO PAULO

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has said that China has disregarded the border pacts with India, casting a shadow on the bilateral ties.

Mr. Jaishankar, who arrived here on the first leg of his six-day visit to South America aimed at boosting overall bilateral ties with the region, made the remarks during his interaction with the Indian community here on Saturday. He asserted that a lasting relationship cannot be a one-way street and there has to be mutual respect.

While responding to a question on India-China ties, Mr. Jaishankar said India and China have agreements going back to the 1990s, which prohibit bringing troops to the border area.

"They (Chinese) have disregarded that. You know what happened in the Galwan Valley a few years ago. That problem has not been resolved and that is clearly casting a shadow," he said.

Chinese and Indian troops are engaged in a prolonged stand-off in eastern Ladakh.

The two sides have so far held 16 rounds of Corps Commander-level talks to resolve the stand-off, which erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas.

Mr. Jaishankar, who was the Indian Ambassador to China from 2009 to 2013, said that a relationship cannot be a one-way street and mutual respect has to be there in order to sustain it.

"They are our neighbour and everybody wants to get along with their neighbour... But everybody wants to get along with their neighbour on reasonable terms. I must respect you and you must respect me," Mr. Jaishankar said.

"From our point of view, we've been very clear that if you have to build a relationship, then there has to be mutual respect. Each one will have their interests and we need to be sensitive to what the concerns are of the other party," he added.

"Relationships are a two-way street. A lasting relationship cannot be a one-way street. We need that mutual respect and mutual sensitivity," the Union Minister said, adding that it is no secret "we are going through a very difficult phase".

Extremely difficult phase

Last week in Bangkok, Mr. Jaishankar had said that the relationship between India and China is going through an "extremely difficult phase" after what Beijing has done at the border and emphasised that the Asian Century will not happen if the two neighbours could not join hands.

"We very much hope that wisdom dawns on the Chinese side," the Minister had said while replying to a question from the audience in Bangkok.

Besides Brazil, Mr. Jaishankar will visit Paraguay and Argentina, and it is his first trip to the South American region as the External Affairs Minister.

The visit is aimed at exploring new areas of cooperation in the post-pandemic era, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

Freebies come at a price: economist

Ashima Goyal says voters should be told about financing and trade-offs involved

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Freebies are never "free" and when political parties offer such schemes, they must be required to make the financing and trade-offs clear to voters, Ashima Goyal, Member of the RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), said on Sunday, adding this would reduce the temptation towards "competitive populism".

Ms. Goyal further said a cost was imposed somewhere when governments provided freebies, but this was worth incurring for public goods and services that build capacity.

"Freebies are never free... especially harmful are subsidies that distort prices," she said in an interview.

Noting that this hurts production and resource allocation and imposes large indirect costs, such as the water table falling in Punjab due to free electricity, Ms. Goyal said such freebies come at the cost of low-quality health, education, air and water that hurt the poor the most.

Ashima Goyal

"When parties offer schemes, they must be required to make the financing and such trade-offs clear to voters. This would reduce the temptation towards competitive populism," the economist argued.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has in recent days hit out at the competitive populism of extending *revaris* (freebies).

His comments were seen directed at parties such as the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) which have, in the run-up to the Assembly elections in States such as Punjab and more recently Gujarat, promised free electricity, water and others.

Earlier this month, the Supreme Court had suggested setting up a specialised body to examine "irrational freebies" offered to voters during elections.

Exceeded expectations

On India's macroeconomic situation, Ms. Goyal, currently emeritus professor at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, said, "Indian growth is sustaining despite continuing global shocks and rate rises."

While observing that India has done better than most expectations and in comparison to many countries under challenging conditions, she said among the reasons for this was the growing economic diversity that helped to absorb shocks.

"Large domestic demand can moderate a global slowdown; if industry suffers from lockdown, agriculture does well," she said, adding that services compensate for less contact-based delivery with digitisation, distance work and exports.

AIIMS to take names of 'heroes'

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Over 20 All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) centres spread across India, now known based on their location, are set to get individual names.

A senior official at the Health Ministry confirmed that the institutes will be named after freedom fighters, regional heroes, historical events, notable monuments of the area, or their distinct geographical identity.

Under the latest proposal,

AIIMS, New Delhi.

all AIIMS institutes – fully functional, partially operational or under construction – are to be renamed. "The majority of the 23 AIIMS has submitted a list of names after the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare sought suggestions from them in this matter," the official said.

The majority of these premier health institutes is learnt to have suggested three or four names, along with an explanatory note for the names suggested.

The AIIMS, New Delhi, the forerunner institute, was established in 1956. Since then, 24 more institutes have been announced. As of January 2022, 19 institutes are operating and five more are expected to become operational by 2025.

Smoke in cargo hold of IndiGo flight

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

An IndiGo flight made a priority landing at Kolkata airport on Sunday morning after smoke was detected in the cargo hold of the plane, officials said.

The flight, 6E 2513, was flying with 165 passengers and six crew members from Delhi to Kolkata, they said.

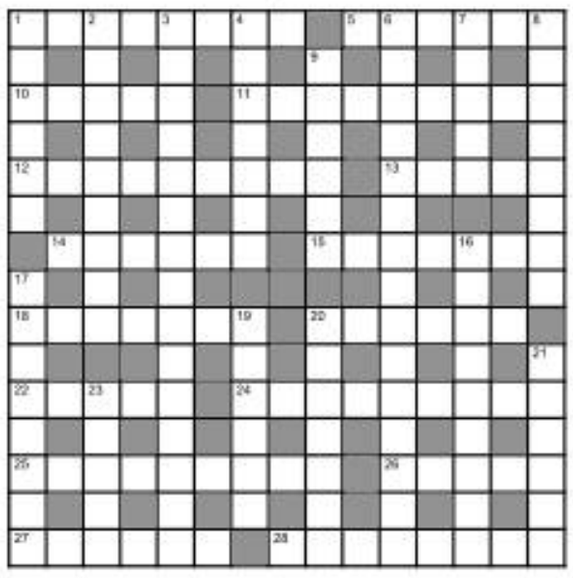
The flight landed safely, they stated.

TH CROSSWORD + 13641

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN



Across

1 Strong fellow chasing don has ordered – 'don't interfere!' (5,3)
5 Criminal about to abduct royal princess of Scandinavia (6)
10 Steward spilling one drink (5)
11 Original caper to steal posh article (9)
12 Hates one silly jerk lacking belief in God (9)
13 Invader killing a horseman (5)
14 Sees the Reverend holding Old Testament book (6)
15 Knocking back peg, enthralled by dope, turning mellow (7)
18 Husband leaves compère entertained by ready repartee (7)
20 Totter and stumble, losing head after whiskey (6)
22 Remote retreat in American city (5)
24 One providing illumination in large building hosting party (9)
25 Brash rascals consuming ecstasy in the open around university (9)
26 Obtain dictionary featuring group of languages (5)
27 Performing under pressure, finally prevail (6)
28 Explain tricks accurately (8)

Down

1 Appeal by bowler taking wicket in Australia (6)
2 Gains by cracking open-and-shut case to begin with (7,2)
3 Honest person observes revolting deceit concealed by siren (8,7)
4 Become chubbier after gaining pounds (7)
6 Brain-dead men, most losing money playing slot machines (3-5,7)
7 No more upset about a little tacky old hat (5)
8 Nice core exercises in guide (8)
9 Surgeons discontented about procedure for piles (6)
16 Alert old leader of Russia making unreasonable demand (4,5)
17 Fragments of a floe split into cubes (5,3)
19 Alcoholic drink finished up around midnight by girl (6)
20 Begins to enjoy fight, most unpredictable (5,2)
21 Lament about losing a trial, revolutionary's free (6)
23 Swift in sack after taking a little pill (5)

SUDOKU

		3		2				
	6			5		4	2	1
	4	2			1	5		
6				8			9	
	9			6				2
		7	6			8	5	
4	3	5		9			6	
				3		2		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13640

F	A	I	L	S	A	F	E		O	S	P	R	E	Y
E		N		E		U		S		T		E		O
T	R	A	M	M	E	L		E	X	A	L	T	E	D
I		W		I		L		A		I		I		E
S	T	A	F	F		S	A	T	I	R	I	C	A	L
H		Y		I		T		O				E		L
			I	N	T	E	R	F	E	R	E	N	C	E
E		R		A		A		T		E		T		D
P	R	O	B	L	E	M	C	H	I	L	D			
I		L				A		E		A		B		H
S	W	E	A	T	S	H	O	P		P	R	O	N	E
G		P		I		E		A		S		N		D
D	I	L	E	M	M	A		N	A	I	L	I	N	G
E		A		E		D		T		N		T		E
S	L	Y	E	S	T		I	S	O	G	L	O	S	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	7	3	5	8	9	6	1	4
4	5	6	3	2	1	8	9	7
8	9	1	6	7	4	2	5	3
1	8	7	2	9	3	4	6	5
3	6	2	4	1	5	7	8	9
9	4	5	7	6	8	3	2	1
7	1	9	8	3	6	5	4	2
5	2	8	9	4	7	1	3	6
6	3	4	1	5	2	9	7	8

FAITH

Bond of devotion

The background of Sundarar's brief and eventful life on earth has to be understood in the right spirit. Sundarar is sent to earth where he has to fulfill some goals set for him by God. Sekkizhar presents many interesting and soulful situations in Sundarar's life that exemplify the soul's journey to salvation, pointed out Sri Nallur Sa Saravanan in a discourse.

The basis of the Saiva Siddhanta tradition is that God pervades the body and soul of every jiva. He inheres as 'arivukku arivai', the unseen force of our knowledge or understanding, and as 'uyirukku uyirai', the very essence or life of the soul. But sadly, each soul though bound to God in this integral relationship, is not aware of it fully owing to ignorance and anava mala. In the lives of great souls, the relationship with God is more explicit. A soul is on the path to attain salvation when it is able to accept God's will and also understand what God thinks. Not all can know what God thinks.

Sundarar understands that God has a mission for him on earth and accepts it. This is to compose the Tiruthondar Thogai that highlights the quality of devotion to Siva and Sivan Adiyars. Sundarar achieves this great task and sows the seed for later composers like Nambi Andar Nambi and Sekkizhar to make people sensitive to the power of Siva bhakti. Sekkizhar, while narrating the life of the Adiyar Perumizhalai Kurumbar, brings to light the true spirit of devotion to Siva and to Sivan Adiyars that this devotee exemplifies. Kurumbar intuitively foresees that God has willed that Sundarar would be leaving for Kailasa that next day. He uses yogic power to reach the feet of God in Kailasa since he could not bear to be parted from Sundarar whom he considered as his very eyes.

ASK US

BHAVANA ACHARYA

Q. I save about ₹500-1,000 per month. Where can I invest this such that there is nil or minimum risk, and maximum returns?

SIDDESH CHANDAKAVATHE

A. Risk and returns go hand-in-hand. You cannot earn high returns without taking risk. For low-risk options, invest in bank fixed deposits (FDs). Set up a recurring deposit for the amount you wish to invest each month. For higher interest within the FD space, pick a bank or a small finance bank that offers attractive rates now. You can consider other investment options such as mutual funds once your surplus goes up or you are able to take on higher risk.

Q. I am an avid reader of the AskUs section of Moneywise. I'll be getting a pension that is 50% of my salary and just enough for my needs but not wants. My wife is 52 and we have 2 children yet to be settled. I have a ₹1.4 crore retirement corpus. I do not know where to invest this money due to high inflation rates. Can you suggest to me avenues other than the SCSS and the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana to invest this amount to beat inflation and earn good interest?

PRAKHAR CHAUDHARY

A. First, it would be better that you work out the additional amount you require on a monthly basis to meet expenses. This will help arrive at how much you need to invest in income-generating investments and how much can be set aside in growth investments which can help generate better returns and allow your corpus to last longer. This exercise is also needed if you intend to utilise part of this corpus for your children's needs. Apart from the SCSS and PMVVY, in the current scenario, central and State government bonds are offering superior yields. You can pick from the longer-term bonds such as 7 years and 10 years — based on the yields — which give you predictable cash flows for a length of time. You can also consider RBI Floating Rate Taxable Bonds, where the interest rate is linked to the prevailing NSC rates and therefore superior to most other fixed-income options. High-returning FDs from banks and small finance banks are other options. Cap the FD amount at ₹5 lakh in each bank in order to maximise insurance guarantee, and limit risk. You can also put part of the income-generating corpus in low-risk debt funds with very short or short maturities and set up a systematic withdrawal plan (SWP) — keep a withdrawal rate of about 5-6% to avoid over-drawing (for short-maturity funds, start SWP after at least 1.5 years of investment). Debt funds are more tax-efficient than the other fixed-income options. The growth part of the corpus can be invested in moderate-risk equity funds such as large-cap index funds and aggressive hybrid funds. Let this amount sit untouched for at least 5-7 years.

Q. I am a 23-year-old doing a two-year fellowship. Currently, I earn ₹46,000 per month. After meeting other obligations, I'm left with ₹10,000 for my monthly expenses. I wish to save ₹5,000 per month for my future education needs. Kindly suggest a suitable savings plan.

SWATHI SIVADAS

A. It is necessary to have an idea of when you will need the amount for your future education. If you have a time-frame of about 3 years, consider balanced advantage or hybrid aggressive funds along with very short-maturity debt funds. For an even shorter time frame, stick only to debt funds or even just fixed deposits. If you have at least a 5-7 year time frame, go for large-cap equity index funds and short-duration debt funds; either go for a 60-40 or a 50-50 split between these. One fund in each will suffice for your investment amount.

Q. I am a 75-year-old retired bank official. I have invested in mutual funds. I am contributing to MFs through SIP as well. Please advise if, at this age, it is prudent to continue with mutual funds.

S. VISWANATHAN

A. Mutual funds as such are not wrong investments to be making at any age. The question is the nature of the funds you have, the investments you have outside of mutual funds and your own requirement. Mutual funds can be equity funds or debt funds or hybrid. Equity funds are high risk and debt funds are typically low risk; hybrid funds fall in between. Roughly speaking, if the mutual fund investment is a large part of your overall investment or if you are dependent on this to generate income to meet expenses, you cannot take high risk. Your mutual funds should be more towards debt funds as well as other low-risk income-generating investment options such as FDs, SCSS and so on. However, if you are already comfortable meeting monthly expenses, including medical expenses and you do not foresee needing this amount for at least 5-7 years, a higher share of equity funds even up to 40-50% of the mutual fund investments will be fine. But do make sure that the funds are not highly aggressive ones that invest predominantly in mid- and-small-cap stocks. Therefore, assess what funds you have now, where you stand in terms of cash flow requirement, and then decide on the course of action.

(The adviser is co-founder, PrimeInvestor.in)

Readers can e-mail queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. The experts on personal finance will answer select queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

Overseas borrowing, a double-edged sword?

Allure of cheaper rates may be deceptive as foreign currency loans can actually prove to be expensive

ANAND SRINIVASAN
SASHWATH SWAMINATHAN

In the current economic climate, companies that wish to boost their capital can do so in multiple ways.

The first method would be to infuse excess earnings into the company through retained earnings. The second would be to dilute the stake of existing shareholders of the company by creating a rights issue to infuse equity capital into the firm.

The third, and arguably the quickest method, would be to borrow money from banks directly, NBFCs or the open market through issuing bonds/debentures. Many Indian companies have chosen the third route to fund their capital needs by borrowing from domestic sources such as banks and through debentures marked in rupee.

However, a collection of companies with borrowings denominated in foreign currencies makes for an intriguing subject to examine.

The argument behind borrowing in foreign currencies is that when there is interest-rate disparity between the domestic and foreign markets (favouring the latter), it becomes cheaper to service such loans.

It is crucial to note the borrower is still open to exchange risk, notwithstanding the difference in interest to be paid.

Decline in value

If the domestic currency were to decline compared with the foreign currency, the company is liable to pay more than it had bargained for in real terms.

Therefore, the currency risk must be offset by your revenue denominated in the foreign currency or by some other measure.

The problem with borrowing in the current environment is the impending risk of a recession due to increased interest rates — a fallout of central banks' moves in their bid to curb inflation

Vedanta Ltd., a mining company with a market capitalisation of ₹93,896 crore (at the time of writing this piece), had borrowed $1.2 billion in February 2021 when the U.S. dollar to rupee conversion rate stood at roughly ₹72.6 but touched a high of ₹80.03 on July 18 this year. The dollar, in nominal terms, appreciated by 10.6% in over a year-and-a-half.

The problem for Vedanta is that its borrowings, originally $1.2 billion, remained constant nominally and increased by over 10.6% in real terms. Moreover, Vedanta's woes cease to end there with their holding company listed in the U.S. having $16,377 million in total debt.

It had paid $1.267 billion in interest in 2021 alone.

An increase of 10.6% in the total interest payments amounts to $1.394 billion. The real catch, however, is that Vedanta earns a significant portion of its revenue in the rupee, which has not kept pace with its dollar counterpart.

Additionally, due to the nature of Vedanta's business in dealing with commodities, volatile prices spell trouble for a company already under significant pressure. Not only have commodity prices sobered from their exuberant highs (viz., copper and steel), but the Zambian courts have also halted their case for liquidating their subsidiary Konkola Copper Mines.

Another company that borrowed in foreign currency is Adani Green Energy. It borrowed a sum to the tune of $6,061 crore in secured bonds. Needless to state, the volatility in energy prices rivals commodity prices. Additionally, Adani Green Energy has issued redeemable NCDs (non-convertible debentures) to Total Solar Singapore Pte Limited worth $4,013 crore, carrying whopping interest rates in the 12.25-13.25% range, according to the notes provided in its annual report.

The effect of rising rates is twofold: the threat of lower earnings from a shrinking economy; and depreciation of the rupee compared with foreign currencies

The advantage of borrowing in a foreign currency (viz., cheaper interest payments) is lost at high rates. Moreover, as in the case of Vedanta, Adani Green Energy Ltd. also earns predominantly in rupee terms. Tata Motors, another company which had borrowed in foreign currencies, had a hedge due to earning their keep in the respective currency. Therefore, when the value of the debt rises or falls, the company's revenue falls accordingly, mitigating the difference between the real and nominal burden of the borrowing.

Insufficient hedge

A revenue earned in foreign currencies may not be a sufficient hedge for companies borrowing excessively due to low-interest rates. The problem with borrowing in the current environment is the impending risk of a recession due to increased interest rates to curb inflation. Central banks worldwide, primarily the Federal Reserve, have raised rates unanimously. Benchmark U.S. rates rose from 0%-0.25% at their lowest and now hover between 2.5%-2.75%. The Federal Reserve seems open to raising it to 4% to forestall inflation.

The effect of rising rates has two facets, the first being the threat of lower earnings from a shrinking economy, and the second being the depreciation of the rupee compared with foreign currencies. Although the borrowing of these companies remains constant, their revenues decrease due to a recession, increasing the real burden of their debt. Sintex Industries and the Anil Ambani group (with considerable sums borrowed in foreign currencies) exemplify how foreign debt has sunk enormous titans. Although borrowing in foreign currencies for cheaper rates might seem attractive in the short term, it is debatable whether it is a sustainable course of action in the long term.

(Anand Srinivasan is a consultant

Sashwath Swaminathan is a research assistant at Aionion Investment Services)

THINK INVESTOR: MAKING A CHOICE

Diversification or alpha, not both

Positive alpha is good for goal-based portfolios, but negative alpha can be more painful

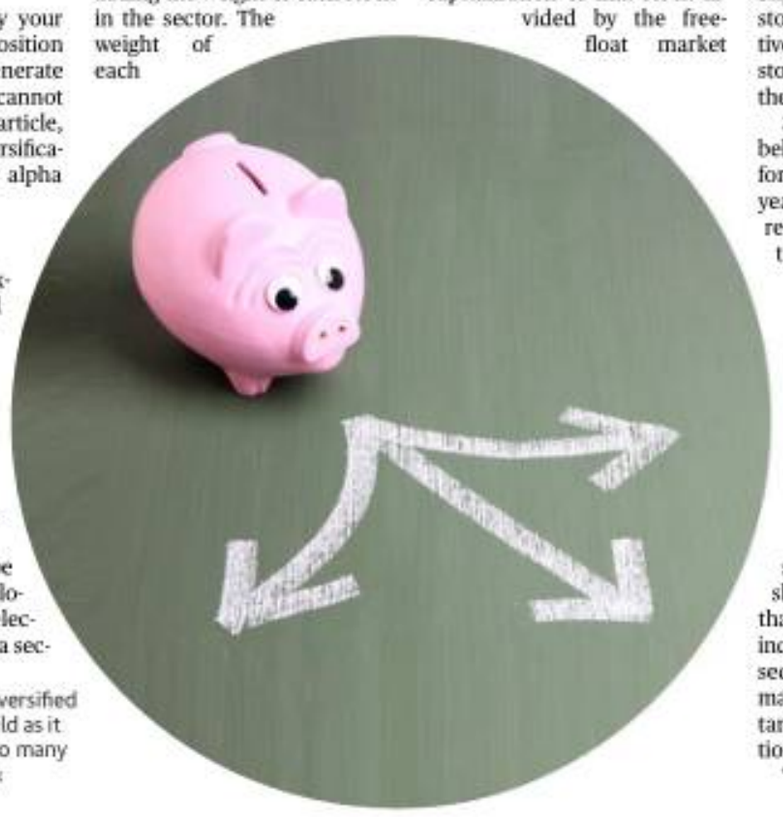
VENKATESH BANGARUSWAMY

You can either diversify your equity investments or position your investments to generate positive alpha, but you cannot possibly do both. In this article, we discuss why true diversification does not allow for alpha generation.

Alpha source

Positive alpha is the excess return that a fund generates over its appropriate benchmark. Suppose a one-year return on a large-cap active fund is 12%. If the fund's benchmark returns 11% during the same period, the fund's alpha is one percentage point.

Alpha returns can be generated from sector allocation and security selection. You can determine a sector weight in an index by adding the weight of each stock in the sector. The weight of each stock is the free-float market capitalisation of that stock divided by the free-float market cap of the benchmark index. Suppose the weight of three stocks are 3, 4 and 2%, respectively. If these three are the only stocks representing a sector, the sector weight is 9%.



Mammoth task: A well-diversified portfolio is difficult to build as it would require holding too many stocks. •GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Suppose a portfolio manager believes this sector will outperform the index in the coming year, but does not have a preference towards any company in the sector. If the portfolio manager assigns 12% to the sector, this weight will be spread across the three stocks in the ratio 3:4:2. If the sector outperforms the index, the fund would have generated positive alpha from sector allocation. If the portfolio manager has a view that a stock will do better than other stocks in the index, then he/she may assign more weight to that stock, say, 4% instead of its index weight of, say, 2%. That is security selection. A portfolio manager typically takes simultaneous bets on sector allocation and security selection.

The outcome on equity investments is uncertain. This uncertainty causes anxiety and leads to regret if the outcome is contrary to expectations. It is to reduce this future regret that we diversify.

Market risk

The natural process of diversification involves creating a portfolio that is exposed to only market risk; for, this risk cannot be diversified. So, a diversified portfolio has two characteristics. One, it ought to carry risk associated with factors that impact the entire market. And two, it ought to have insignificant exposure to factors that can affect individual companies or sectors.

Take two companies, one manufacturing steel and the other, automobiles. If an increase in steel prices augurs well for the steel company, the argument is that it could have a negative effect on the automobile company as steel is a major input for automobiles. If the portfolio is well-diversified, the impact of the increase in steel prices will be insignificant, as the positive effect of steel price increase on steel stocks ought to be cancelled by the negative effect on stocks of companies that use steel as input. Practically speaking, a well-diversified portfolio is difficult to construct as it would require holding too many stocks. The Nifty 500 index, representing 97% of the market, can be considered as a diversified portfolio. A fund benchmarked to this index must take bets on selected sectors and individual stocks to generate alpha. So, a fund positioned to generate alpha cannot be diversified.

Conclusion

You can invest in a diversified fund, or you can buy a fund that aims to generate positive alpha. Technically, you cannot hope to achieve both through a single investment. A truly diversified fund cannot generate alpha, as it would have insignificant additional exposure to securities and sectors compared with its benchmark weights. Remember, alpha is generated taking bets on sector allocation and security selection.

You should be mindful of this argument when you set up goal-based portfolios. Positive alpha is good for goal-based portfolios, but negative alpha can be more painful. True diversification (broad-based passive funds) could be better.

(The writer offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Bank fixed deposit rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure
SMALL FINANCE BANKS				
AU Small Finance Bank	6.90	5.35	6.90	6.90
Capital Small Finance Bank	6.60	6.20	6.20	6.20
Equitas Small Finance Bank	7.00	6.60	6.90	6.00
ESAF Small Finance Bank	7.25	5.50	5.75	5.25
Fincare Small Finance Bank	7.00	6.25	6.50	7.00
Jana Small Finance Bank	7.35	7.00	7.25	7.25
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	7.49	6.50	7.00	6.75
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	7.50	7.00	6.50	7.20
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	7.50	7.15	7.50	7.50
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS				
Axis Bank	6.05	5.45	5.70	5.75
Bandhan Bank	6.50	6.25	6.50	5.60
CSB Bank	6.00	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	6.50	5.75	6.25	6.25
DCB Bank	6.60	6.10	6.60	6.60
HDFC Bank	6.10	5.50	5.50	6.10
ICICI Bank	6.10	5.50	5.60	6.10
IDFC First Bank	6.90	5.75	6.50	6.50
Indusind Bank	6.75	6.25	6.75	6.75
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	6.25	6.25	5.75	6.00
Karnataka Bank	6.10	5.50	5.65	5.65
Karur Vysya Bank	6.00	5.75	6.00	6.00
Kotak Mahindra Bank	5.90	5.75	5.90	5.90
Nainital Bank	5.60	5.55	5.60	5.60
RBL Bank	7.00	6.50	6.55	6.55
SBM Bank India	6.60	6.00	5.85	5.85
South Indian Bank	5.85	5.60	5.75	5.85
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	5.60	5.25	5.60	5.60
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS				
Bank of Baroda	6.00	5.30	5.50	5.50
Bank of India	5.50	5.30	5.35	5.35
Bank of Maharashtra	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25
Canara Bank	6.00	5.50	5.75	5.75
Indian Bank	5.60	5.30	5.60	5.60
Indian Overseas Bank	5.70	5.45	5.70	5.70
Punjab National Bank	6.10	5.50	5.60	5.75
Punjab & Sind Bank	5.60	5.35	5.60	5.60
State Bank of India	6.10	5.45	5.60	5.65
Union Bank of India	5.80	5.35	5.50	5.75
FOREIGN BANKS				
Citibank	3.50	2.75	3.50	3.50
Deutsche Bank	7.00	5.50	6.50	7.00
HSBC Bank	6.00	3.10	4.00	4.00

Home loan interest rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(in %)
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS			
State Bank of India	8.05-9.05	8.05-8.95	8.05-8.95
Bank of Baroda	7.95-9.45	7.95-9.45	7.95-9.70
Union Bank of India	7.40-9.15	7.40-9.35	7.40-9.35
Punjab National Bank	7.95-9.35	7.90-9.05	7.90-9.00
Bank of India	7.80-9.65	7.80-9.65	7.80-9.65
Canara Bank	8.05-12.85	8.05-12.85	8.05-12.85
UCO Bank	7.90-8.10	7.90-8.10	7.90-8.10
Bank of Maharashtra	7.30-9.20	7.30-9.35	7.30-9.45
Punjab and Sind Bank	7.90-9.00	7.90-9.00	7.90-9.00
Indian Overseas Bank	8.45-8.80	8.55-8.80	8.70-8.80
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	>=7.50	>=7.50	>=7.50
ICICI Bank	8.10-9.00	8.10-9.00	8.10-9.10
Axis Bank	7.60-12.50	7.60-12.50	7.60-8.05
HSBC Bank	7.35-8.20	7.35-8.20	7.35-8.20
South Indian Bank	8.25-11.00	8.25-11.00	8.25-11.00
Karur Vysya Bank	8.05-10.25	8.05-10.25	8.05-10.25
Karnataka Bank	7.96-9.21	7.96-9.21	7.96-9.31
Federal Bank	9.05-9.10	9.10-9.15	9.15-9.20
Dhanlaxmi Bank	8.35-9.50	8.35-9.50	8.35-9.50
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.95	7.95	7.95
Bandhan Bank	7.80-13.50	7.80-13.15	7.80-13.15
RBL Bank	10.80-12.50	9.20-9.60	9.20-9.50
CSB Bank	9.69	9.69	9.94
HOUSING FINANCE COMPANIES (HFCS)			
LIC Housing Finance	7.50-8.60	7.50-8.80	7.50-9.00
HDFC Ltd.	8.10-9.50	8.35-9.75	8.45-9.85
Bajaj Housing Finance	7.70 onwards	7.70 onwards	7.70 onwards
Tata Capital	>=7.75	>=7.75	>=7.75
PNB Housing Finance	7.99-16.75	7.99-16.75	8.10-10.70
GIC Housing Finance	>=8.20	>=8.20	>=8.20
Repco Home Finance	>=7.70	>=7.70	>=7.70
Indiabulls Housing	>=8.70	>=8.70	>=8.70
Aditya Birla Capital	8.00-12.50	8.00-12.50	8.00-12.50
ICICI Home Finance	>=9.20	>=9.20	>=9.20
Godrej Housing Finance	7.94-10.99	7.94-10.99	7.94-10.99
Home First Finance	8.00-18.00	8.00-18.00	8.00-18.00

Rates as on August 19 — Source: Paisabazaar.com

Zelensky warns of 'ugly' Russian attack around Independence Day

'Don't let Moscow spread despondency and fear ahead of the August 24 events'

REUTERS
KYIV

President Volodymyr Zelensky urged vigilance ahead of celebrations of 31 years of Ukraine's independence from Soviet rule on August 24, as shells rained down near Europe's biggest nuclear plant and Russian forces struck in the south and east.

Ukrainians must not allow Moscow to "spread despondency and fear" ahead of the events, which also mark six months since Russia began its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Mr. Zelensky said in his nightly video address on Saturday.

"We must all be aware that this week Russia could try to do something particularly ugly, something particularly vicious," Mr. Zelensky said.

People looking at a destroyed Russian tank in Kyiv on Sunday, ahead of Independence Day on August 24. •REUTERS

The nightly curfew in Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, regularly hit by Russian shelling, will be extended for the entire day on Wednesday, Governor Oleh Synehub told residents on the Telegram messaging app.

As the war that has killed thousands and forced millions to flee heads for its half-year mark, Ukrainian military and local officials reported more Russian strikes overnight on targets in the east and south of the country.

Ukraine's general staff said on Facebook early on Sunday that over the past 24 hours Russian forces had conducted several attempted assaults in Donbas. The eastern border region controlled in part by pro-Moscow separatists has been a prime target of Russia's campaign in the past months.

In the south, Russian forces conducted a successful assault on a village of Blahodatne at the border between Kherson and Mykolaiv regions. The city of Mykolaiv was hit with multiple S-300 missiles early on Sunday, regional Governor Vitaliy Kim said on Telegram.

The area on the Black Sea coast has seen some of the fiercest fighting of the past weeks.

To the northeast, the city of Nikopol, which lies across the Dnipro river from Zaporizhzhia, Europe's biggest nuclear plant, was shelled on five different occasions overnight, Governor Valentyn Reznichenko said.

Singapore will repeal law against gay sex, says PM

It falls short of full marriage equality due to 'societal norms'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SINGAPORE

Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong announced on Sunday the country will repeal a colonial-era law criminalising gay sex, though he maintained that the government will continue to "uphold" marriage as between a man and a woman.

Inherited from the British colonial era, Section 377A of Singapore's penal code penalises sex between men with up to two years in jail.

Gay rights campaigners have long said the law runs afoul of the affluent city-state's increasingly modern and vibrant culture, and had mounted two unsuccessful legal challenges.

'Attitudes have shifted'

The Prime Minister said attitudes have shifted since 15 years ago when the government decided the law should remain, although it has not been actively enforced.

The government will repeal section 377A & decriminalise sex between men. •REUTERS

Gay people "are now better accepted" locally, especially among younger Singaporeans, he said.

"The government will repeal Section 377A and decriminalise sex between men. I believe this is the right thing to do, and something that most Singaporeans will now accept," he said.

However, the repeal of the Section stops short of full marriage equality.

Mr. Lee said the government recognises that "most Singaporeans do not want the repeal to trigger a drastic shift in our societal norms across the board", including how marriage is defined and how it is taught in schools. "Hence, we will uphold and safeguard the institution of marriage," he said.

He stressed that under the law, "only marriages between one man and one woman are recognised in Singapore".

The government will amend the Constitution to protect the existing definition of marriage from being challenged constitutionally in the courts, Mr. Lee added.

Gay rights campaigners on Sunday expressed "relief" over the government's decision.

Pak. singer Nayyara Noor passes away

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KARACHI

Celebrated Pakistani singer Nayyara Noor, adored by millions from both India and Pakistan for her soulful melodies, passed away after a brief illness, her family said on Sunday. Noor was 71.

Noor was born in Guwahati in 1950. Her father was an active member of the All-India Muslim League and hosted Pakistan's founding father Muhammad Ali Jinnah during his trip to Assam before the Partition in 1947. Sometime in 1958, her family migrated to Lahore.

Her famous ghazal renditions included *Ae Jazba-e-Dil Gar Main Chahoon*, written by Behzad Lucknavi. *Barkha Barse Chat Per*, a Hindi poem by Faiz, which she rendered with her husband Sheharyar Zaidi in 1976, was perhaps her most celebrated work.

Pak. media regulator bans live telecast of Imran's speeches

He may be booked for threatening state institutions: Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's electronic media watchdog has banned television channels from broadcasting live speeches of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, hours after he "threatened state institutions and made provocative statements" at a rally here.

Mr. Khan, while addressing a public gathering here on Saturday, threatened to file cases against top police officials, a woman magistrate, Election Commission and political opponents over

Imran Khan

the treatment meted out to his aide Shahbaz Gill, who was arrested last week on charges of sedition.

The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority said, "It has been observed that Mr. Imran Khan is... spreading hate speech through his provocative statements against state institutions and officers which is prejudicial to the maintenance of law and order and is likely to disturb public peace and tranquility."

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said on Sunday that the government was mulling to file a case against Mr. Khan for issuing threats to State institutions and making provocative statements while addressing a rally here.

Flash floods kill 20 in eastern Afghan province

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

Heavy rain triggered flash floods in the eastern Afghan province of Logar, killing at least 20 people and destroying more than 3,000 homes, officials said on Sunday.

The rain lashed several areas of the province on Saturday, injuring more than 30 people, the provincial Governor's office said.

The floods also destroyed dozens of canals and about 5,000 acres of agricultural land, mainly orchards, the statement said, with about 2,000 livestock also killed.

Scores of Afghans die every year from floods and torrential downpours, particularly in impoverished rural areas where poorly built homes are often at risk of collapse.

Security forces and charity organisations were evacuating people to safe areas after their houses were destroyed, the provincial government said.

Government spokesman Bilal Karimi, in a separate statement, urged the international community to provide aid. "We urgently request the international community... to join hands with the Afghans at this critical time and (to) spare no effort to help the victims," Karimi said.

Somali security forces end hotel siege, rescue 106 hostages

21 people killed, dozens wounded in 30-hour battle

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MOGADISHU

Somali authorities on Sunday ended a deadly attack, in which 21 people were killed and dozens more wounded, when gunmen stormed a hotel in the capital.

It took Somali forces more than 30 hours to contain the fighters who had stormed Mogadishu's Hayat Hotel on Friday evening in an assault that started with loud explosions.

The siege ended around midnight, police commissioner Abdi Hassan Hijar told reporters. Mr. Hijar said that a total of 106 people, including children and women, were rescued during the siege, which ended around midnight.

Health Minister Dr. Ali Haji Adam reported 21 deaths and 117 people wounded, with at least 15 in critical condition. He noted that some victims may not have been brought to hospitals.

Police are yet to give a detailed explanation of how the attack unfolded and it remains unclear how many gunmen entered the hotel.

Ismail Abdi, the hotel's manager, said that security forces were still working to clear the area. No more gunfire could be heard after 9 a.m. local time. Onlookers gathered outside the gates of the badly damaged hotel on Sunday morning, surveying the scene.

The Islamic extremist group al-Shabaab, which has ties with al-Qaeda, claimed responsibility for the attack, the latest of its frequent attempts to strike places visited by government officials.

SPORT

LIVE TELECAST

Zimbabwe vs India: 3rd ODI, Sony Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 12.45 p.m.
Durand Cup: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 3 & 6 p.m.
KSCA Maharaja T20: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 3 & 7 p.m.
Asia Cup Qualifier: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 12.15 a.m. (Tuesday).
Premier League: SS Select 1 & 2, Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday).
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday).

IN BRIEF

Bagnaia wins Austrian MotoGP

SPIELBERG

Italy's Francesco Bagnaia won the Austrian MotoGP on Sunday for his third successive victory although series leader Fabio Quartararo limited the damage. Bagnaia led from start to finish on his Ducati but Quartararo battled gamely to finish second. The Frenchman extended his lead over second-placed Aleix Espargaro to 32 points with Bagnaia 44 adrift with seven races remaining. AFP

Warner signs 2-year deal with Sydney Thunder

SYDNEY

Australia star David Warner on Sunday signed a two-year deal with Sydney Thunder, ending a nine-year absence from the Big Bash League. The 35-year-old opener has not played in the domestic Twenty20 competition since 2013. Warner has played just two games for Thunder and one for Sydney Sixers. "I'm really excited to get back to the Big Bash," said Warner. AFP

Kvitova in Cincinnati final, finally!

Takes on Garcia, the first qualifier ever to get a shot at the title

TENNIS

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MASON (USA)

Petra Kvitova outlasted Madison Keys 6-7(6), 6-4, 6-3 to reach the Western & Southern Open final. The 32-year-old Kvitova had never advanced to the semifinals in 10 prior appearances in the Cincinnati tournament.

It is the Czech's 40th career final, and she'll face another surprise entrant in Frenchwoman Caroline Garcia, the first qualifier to reach the final in Cincinnati.

"That's nice to have this experience, even at my age," Kvitova said, smiling on Saturday. "In my career, I have had many, many finals, but never here. It feels different because it's for the first time in Cincinnati."

Kvitova almost didn't make it out of the first round, having to save a match-point against last year's finalist, Jil Teichmann. She also needed three sets to beat fifth-ranked Ons Jabeur in the third round.

Keys, the 2019 champion in Cincinnati, defeated three Grand Slam winners this week, but couldn't close out Kvitova.

Something new: Kvitova earned a place in her 40th career final — but a first in Cincinnati. •AFP

The 28-year-old Garcia won her seventh straight match, beating sixth-seeded Aryna Sabalenka 6-2, 4-6, 6-1. There were two rain stoppages during the match.

"No one expected it, that's for sure," Garcia said. "It's a long way to come from (qualifiers). It's one match at a time. Try to take the best from every match and improve through the tournament."

It will be the ninth meeting between Kvitova and Garcia, with Kvitova having won five, including two straight in Miami and Madrid.

"She's a great champion," Garcia said.

There was an unexpected finalist on the men's side as well. Crotian Borna Coric creached the final defeating four seeds, including No. 9 Cameron Norrie in straight sets 6-3, 6-4 in the semifinals.

The results (semifinals):

Men: Borna Coric bt Cameron Norrie 6-3, 6-4; Stefanos Tsitsipas bt Daniil Medvedev 7-6(6), 6-3, 6-3.

Women: Petra Kvitova bt Madison Keys 6-7(6), 6-4, 6-3; Caroline Garcia bt Aryna Sabalenka 6-2, 4-6, 6-1.

Lagarde for Nizam's Gold Cup

HYDERABAD: The five-year-old horse Lagarde, who is well within himself, should not find it difficult to win the Nizam's Gold Cup, the feature event of Monday's (Aug. 22) races.

1 SILVER PHANTOM PLATE (Div. I) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II) – 1.30 p.m.: 1. China Town (8) Gaurav Singh 56, 2. Fast Track (3) Kiran Naidu 56, 3. Hugh Capet (2) D.S. Deora 56, 4. Ivanhoe (11) Ajeeth Kumar 56, 5. Protocol (6) Abhay Singh 56, 6. Wind Sprite (7) Kuldeep Singh 56, 7. Chica Bonita (9) A.A. Vikrant 54.5, 8. Crimson Rose (10) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 9. God Is Kind (4) B. Nikhil 54.5, 10. Role Model (1) Nakhat Singh 54.5 and 11. The Thunder (5) Uday Kiran 54.5.

1. CRIMSON ROSE, 2. HUGH CAPET, 3. IVANHOE.

2 HIMAYAT SAGAR CUP (1,300m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 2.05: 1. Different (6) Khurshad Alam 61, 2. Sporting Smile (4) R.S. Jodha 60, 3. Take A Gamble (5) D.S. Deora 59.5, 4. Blue Brigade (2) Mohit Singh 58.5, 5. Dharasana (3) G. Naresh 56.5, 6. Happy Go Lucky (7) Akshay Kumar 56, 7. Above The Law (1) Md. Ismail 54.5, 8. Cabello (10) P. Sai Kumar 54.5, 9. Aarya (9) P. Vikram 51.5 and 10. Precious Gift (8) Santosh Raj 50.5.

1. ABOVE THE LAW, 2. HAPPY GO LUCKY, 3. DIFFERENT.

3 NIZAM'S GOLD CUP (Gr. 2) (2,000m), 4-y-o & upward – 2.40: 1. Lagarde (3) Trevor 60, 2. Sea Lion (1) Akshay Kumar 55 and 3. Towering Presence (2) Abhay Singh 52.

1. LAGARDE.

4 SILVER PHANTOM PLATE (Div II) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only – 3.15: 1. Desert Sultan (10) Gaurav Singh 56, 2. Juramento (6) Akshay Kumar 56, 3. Long John (3) Uday Kiran 56, 4. Milton Keynes (9) B. Nikhil 56, 5. Star Medal (11) Nakhat Singh 56, 6. Bifrost (7) D.S. Deora 54.5, 7. Clefairy (2) Suraj Narredu 54.5, 8. Dyanoosh (8) Ajeeth Kumar 54.5, 9. N R I Fantasy (5) Antony Raj 54.5, 10. Virangna (4) Afroz Khan 54.5 and 11. Yaletown (1) Surya Prakash 54.5.

1. CLEFAIRY, 2. JURAMENTO, 3. YALETOWN.

5 KHAMMAM PLATE (1,100m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 3.50: 1. Cosmic Run (3) Kiran Naidu 60, 2. Full Volume (5) Suraj Narredu 59.5, 3. Angel Tesoro (10) Gaurav Singh 59, 4. General Atlantic (8) B. Nikhil 58.5, 5. Hard To Toss (7) Akshay Kumar 58.5, 6. City Of Bliss (6) Mukesh Kumar 58, 7. Rhythm Selection (9) Ajeeth Kumar 58, 8. Ambitious Star (2) R.S. Jodha 57, 9. Gusty Note (1) A.A. Vikrant 56.5 and 10. Rising Queen (4) Md. Ismail 56.5.

1. CITY OF BLISS, 2. FULL VOLUME, 3. HARD TO TOSS.

6 CHARMINAR CUP (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 4.25: 1. Carlisle (7) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. Hot Seat (10) Md. Ismail 58, 3. Kancha (1) Abhay Singh 58, 4. Paladino (4) Kuldeep Singh 56.5, 5. Royal Pal (5) Gaurav Singh 56, 6. Coming Home (2) D.S. Deora 53.5, 7. Muaser (9) Ajeeth Kumar 53.5, 8. Briar Ridge (6) P. Sai Kumar 52.5, 9. Kachnar (8) Rafique Sk.52 and 10. My Master (3) Nakhat Singh 51.5.

1. BRIAR RIDGE, 2. COMING HOME, 3. KANCHA.

7 HILL FORT PLATE (1,200m), rated up to 25 (Cat. III) – 5.00: 1. Hip Hop (1) R.S. Jodha 60, 2. Neffereti (4) P. Vikram 60, 3. Star Cruise (10) Kuldeep Singh 60, 4. Smolensk (8) A.A. Vikrant 59.5, 5. Ashwa Pushkin (6) Antony Raj 59, 6. Horse O' War (3) G. Naresh 59, 7. Charmer (7) Nakhat Singh 58.5, 8. N R I Ruby (11) Santosh Raj 58, 9. Viggen (2) Mukesh Kumar 56, 10. Good Tidings (9) Akshay Kumar 54.5 and 11. That's My Way (5) Afroz Khan 54.

1. STAR CRUISE, 2. GOOD TIDINGS, 3. HIP HOP.

DAY'S BEST: CLEFAIRY.

Jackpot: 2, 4, 5, 6 & 7.
Mini-jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3 & 4; (ii): 4, 5, 6 & 7.
Treble: (i): 3, 4 & 5; (ii): 5, 6 & 7.
Tanala: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 & 7.

Ankita falls at the final hurdle

Sasikumar, Jennifer also lose in summit clashes

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Fifth seed Ankita Raina lost 2-6, 4-6 to eighth seed Joanna Garland of Chinese Taipei in the final of the $25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Aldershot, Great Britain, on Sunday.

In the $25,000 ITF women's event in Vrnjacka Banja (Serbia), Prarthana Thombare and Emily Appleton, seeded No. 1, lost in the doubles final to Cristina Dinu and Valeriya Strakhova.

In the $15,000 ITF men's event in Jakarta, top seed Sasikumar Mukund was defeated 3-6, 3-6 by second seed Shintaro Imai of Japan in the final.

The results: $25,000 ITF women, Aldershot, Britain: Singles (final): Joanna Garland (Tpe) bt Ankita Raina 6-2, 6-4.

$25,000 ITF women, Vrnjacka Banja, Serbia: Doubles (final): Cristina Dinu (Rou) & Valeriya Strakhova (Ukr) bt Emily Appleton (GBR) & Prarthana Thombare 6-1, 4-6, [10-8]; **Semifinals:** Emily & Prarthana bt Mariana Drazic (Cro) & Elena Milovanovic (Srb) 6-2, 6-1.

$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Singles (final): Saki Imamura (Jpn) bt Jennifer Luikham 6-1, 6-1.

$15,000 ITF men, Jakarta: Singles (final): Shintaro Imai (Jpn) bt Sasikumar Mukund 6-3, 6-3.

Usyk beats Joshua again

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KING ABDULLAH SPORTS CITY

Ukrainian boxer Oleksandr Usyk retained his World heavyweight titles with a split decision win over Anthony Joshua in a rematch on Saturday. The 35-year-old Usyk thus retained possession of his WBA, WBO and IBF belts. There's only one heavyweight title that Usyk doesn't own now – the WBC that was vacated this year by Tyson Fury.

Bhullar finishes fifth in Korea

Ok Tae-hoon emerges the champion

GOLF

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JEJU (SOUTH KOREA)

Gaganjeet Bhullar produced a solid four-under 67 to finish fifth at the International Series Korea here on Sunday. The 34-year-old began the week with a modest one-over 72, but followed up with 65, 69 and 67 to finish 11-under for the week.

Bhullar played steady and parred the first 10 holes before finding back-to-back birdies on the 11th and 12th and added a third on the 15th. He dropped a shot on the 17th but birdied the par-5 18th and tied for fifth with Korean Wang Jeunghun (67).

Bhullar has been consistent of late as he won in Indonesia three weeks ago for his 10th Asian Tour win and also finished T-31 in Singapore last week.

Steady: Bhullar has been coming up with consistent shows of late. •AFP

However, things did not pan out well for other Indians as Veer Ahlawat, despite a final round 68, finished T-29, while S.S.P. Chawrasia (71) was T-51, Rashid Khan (72) was T-62 and Shiv Kapur (72) was T-68.

Home favourite Ok Taehoon knocked home a clutch five-foot birdie putt on the last hole to beat compatriot Kim Bio by one shot. American Trevor Simbsy fired a 67 to claim third.

Clean sweep on the cards for Rahul's Men in Blue

Zimbabweans have to play out of their skins to put up even a semblance of a fight in the third and final ODI

INDIA IN ZIM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HARARE

Team India is all set to complete a 3-0 One-Day International series sweep against a Zimbabwe side that has been struggling to put up even the semblance of a fight.

Having trumped their hapless opponents on all fronts in the preceding two matches, India will enter the third and final ODI knowing well that the script is unlikely to change at the Harare Sports Club on Monday.

Motivating youngsters

This will translate into the visitors getting yet another opportunity for experimentation keeping the bigger picture in mind – next year's ICC World Cup. Stand-in skipper K.L. Rahul has done quite well in keeping the players motivated to grab their chances and cement their places in the side.

There is no doubt they have not faced the kind of examination they would have wanted, but those who are looking to get a longer run at the top level would certainly not mind the experience.

The move to promote himself did not work in the second match, but that will not deter Rahul from trying it out one more time. His stay at the crease in the second ODI lasted just nine balls for one run off five balls.

In the absence of frontline bowlers, India's attack has performed extremely well and showed what it is capable of.

The quality of opposition is no reason to undermine the efforts of Deepak Chahar, Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Prasidh Krishna and Axar Patel.

Slightly better show

After the 10-wicket drubbing in the series opener, Zimbabwe could reduce the margin of defeat in the second ODI, but to ensure a better result it would need to play out of their skins.

Even that may not be enough for the beleaguered hosts, but they would do well to promote Sikandar Raza and Sean Williams, Zimbabwe's best batters for some time now, in the line-up.

If the 161 all out in the second game is any evidence, the home team continues to look for a quick-fix to its batting woes, while the bowlers are also not able to trouble the strong Indian batting line-up.

The teams (from):

India: K.L. Rahul (Capt), Shikhar Dhawan (Vice-Capt.), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda, Rahul Tripathi, Ishan Kishan (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Shardul Thakur, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Avesh Khan, Prasidh Krishna, Mohd. Siraj, Deepak Chahar and Shahbaz Ahmed.

Zimbabwe: Regis Chakabva (Capt.), Ryan Burl, Tanaka Chivanga, Bradley Evans, Luke Jongwe, Innocent Kaia, Takudzwanashe Kaitano, Clive Madande, Wessly Madhevere, Tadiwanashe Marumani, John Masara, Tony Munyonga, Richard Ngarava, Victor Nyauchi, Sikandar Raza, Milton Shumba and Donald Tiripano.

Match starts at 12.45 p.m. IST.

Not breaking a sweat: It's been a breeze for the Indians in the first two games. • AP

CSK signs five for CSA league

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings Cricket Limited, which has acquired the Johannesburg franchise in the Cricket South Africa T20 League, announced the signing of five players, including former South African captain and CSK player Faf du Plessis.

The other players are Moeen Ali (England), Maheesh Theekshana (Sri Lanka), who are part of CSK in the IPL, Romario Shepherd (West Indies) and Gerald Coetzee (South Africa).

"We have decided to pick Faf, Moeen, Maheesh and Romario as the four players who have been contracted by Cricket South Africa. We are also allowed to take one development player from South Africa and decided on Gerald as recommended by Faf," said K.S. Viswanathan, CEO, Chennai Super Kings Cricket Limited.

Sumit, Rohit bag bronze

SPORTS BUREAU

Sumit and Rohit Dahiya opened India's Greco Roman account by landing bronze medals on the concluding day of the World under-20 wrestling championships in Sofia, Bulgaria, on Sunday.

Sumit, a World cadet bronze medal winner who lost to Armenian Suren Aghajanyan by fall in the semifinals, rallied to beat World junior bronze medallist Mert Ilbars of Turkey 6-3 in the 60kg bronze medal contest.

The Indian, trailing 0-3 at one stage, narrowed the deficit to 1-3 before the break and employed gut wrench in the second period to ensure victory.

Rohit (82kg), an Asian under-20 bronze medal winner, beat Czech Republic's Marek Vrba 4-2 in the repechage round. In the bronze medal match, Rohit, who was trailing 0-7, banked on push-outs and three warnings to his rival – Ukraine's Ruslan Abdiiev – to turn the tables and win 8-7.

Gokulam's plight: AIFF's own goal should be an eye-opener for India's sports administration

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
KOZHIKODE

The women from Gokulam Kerala played a game of football with the boys from an Uzbekistan club, Phoenix, at Tashkent on Sunday. That friendly wasn't on the itinerary when the Gokulam players boarded the flight from the Calicut International Airport here on August 15.

They had travelled to Uzbekistan to play at the AFC Asian Women's Club championship and their first match was scheduled to be played on August 23, against Sogdiana. Only after they reached Tashkent did they come to know that they had been disqualified from the tournament as a result of FIFA's ban of the AIFF 'for undue influence from third parties.'

Short-changed: For Gokulam Kerala women, the development over the last few days must be a difficult pill to swallow.

FIFA not pleased

After the AIFF president Praful Patel's tenure was found to have violated the National Sports Code, the Supreme Court had appointed a three-member Committee of Administrators (CoA) to run the game in the country. Among the CoA's recommendations was that 50% of the AIFF's electoral college should comprise players. FIFA wasn't happy with that proposal and felt the AIFF's members should not be undermined.

As soon as the Gokulam management came to know of its disqualification – the Asian Football Confederation had sent a letter to the AIFF – it sought intervention from the Prime Minister and Sports Ministry, which wrote to FIFA and the AFC. On Saturday it was confirmed that Gokulam could not play.

The players were understandably shattered. They had trained for two months and the management had made fresh recruitments too, after the CEO and the president travelled to Ghana in search of quality players.

Their anguish found expression in Gokulam's statement which spoke of the dreams of 23 innocent women getting shattered. The release further said: "Never ever should this happen to any club or any athlete..."

India's sports administrators – not just those associated with football – should do well to listen to the plea from Gokulam. Mind you, the AIFF isn't the country's only sports federation that has caught the court's attention. Gokulam's plight could easily have been averted, if the AIFF had complied with the Sports Code.

The Supreme Court's next hearing on the AIFF case is scheduled for Monday and before long the issue is likely to be resolved. FIFA might then lift the ban, and who knows Mohun Bagan would very well then be able to play its AFC Cup match on September 7.

Damage can't be undone

The damage done to Gokulam cannot be undone, however. It will remain one of the most spectacular own goals scored by the Indian sports administration.

Pragg and Carlsen to fight for the crown

FTX CRYPTO CUP

RAKESH RAO

Notwithstanding a shocking blunder to walk into a one-move checkmate for a heartbreaking loss to Poland's Jan-Krzysztof Duda on Saturday, R. Praggnanandhaa needs an outright victory in the rapid games over leader Magnus Carlsen to win the $210,000 FTX Crypto Cup rapid chess tournament in Miami on Sunday.

Praggnanandhaa, after bouncing back in the fourth rapid game to make it 2-2 and closing in on victory in the first blitz game for a 3-2 lead, got himself checkmated. Duda made it 4-2 by scoring over the youngster who appeared to have not gotten over the loss in the first blitz game.

Carlsen (Norway) also needed blitz games to overcome Alireza Firouzja (France) 3.5-2.5.

Praggnanandhaa lost the opening game but came back strongly in the fourth after two draws. Carlsen, on the other hand, lost the first but hit back in the second before the next two games ended with honours even.

Carlsen. • FILE PHOTO

Unlike Duda, who won both blitz games, Carlsen won the first and drew the next to open up a two-point lead over Praggnanandhaa.

When the top-two players meet in the final round, Praggnanandhaa needs to win over four rapid games and gain the three points required to overtake Carlsen. In case the match goes into the tie-break games, Carlsen will take the title.

IN BRIEF

Pakistan sweeps ODI series

ROTTERDAM

Pakistan resisted a determined chase from the Netherlands to win the third ODI by nine runs on Sunday and sweep the series 3-0. The visitors scored 206 in 49.4 overs before limiting the Dutch pursuit to 197 all out with four balls left.

The scores: Pakistan 206 in 49.4 overs (Babar Azam 91, Bas de Leede 3/50) bt Netherlands 197 in 49.2 overs (Vikramjit Singh 50, Tom Cooper 62, Naseem Shah 5/33, Mohammad Wasim 4/36). **Toss:** Pakistan. **MoM:** Naseem. *Pakistan won by nine runs to sweep the series 3-0.*

Juggernauts continue to win, first loss for Giants

PUNE

Odisha Juggernauts, riding on Dilip Khandvi and Vishal's brilliant display in defence, handed Gujarat Giants its first defeat in the inaugural edition of Ultimate Kho Kho on Sunday. The 50-47 victory was Juggernauts' third of the season. In the second match of the day, Telugu Yoddhas gave a commanding display to trounc Rajasthan Warriors 83-45. ANI

Man City rallies to hold Newcastle in thriller

Down 1-3, Guardiola's side fights back

Pulling level: Silva struck in the 64th minute to make it 3-3. • GETTY IMAGES

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Manchester City staged a thrilling fightback as the Premier League champion rescued a 3-3 draw against Newcastle, while Edouard Mendy's embarrassing blunder condemned Chelsea to a 3-0 defeat at Leeds on Sunday.

Pep Guardiola's side was in danger of a first league defeat since February after falling 1-3 behind in the second half. But Erling Haaland sparked City's revival with his third goal for the club before Bernardo Silva's equaliser completed the escape act.

Meanwhile, Chelsea suffered its first defeat of the season as Edouard Mendy's embarrassing blunder put Leeds on course, while Brighton condemned West Ham to a third successive loss.

Mendy's costly mistake was the catalyst for Chelsea's shocking implosion as Brenden Aaronson netted after catching the goalkeeper taking too long in possession.

In LaLiga, a stunning strike by Luka Modric helped Real Madrid on its way to a 4-1 victory at Celta Vigo on Saturday as the reigning champion made it two wins from two this season.

Sadio Mane scored two goals, including one from the penalty spot, as Bayern Munich routed Bochum 7-0 in the Bundesliga.

Important results: Sunday: Premier League: Leeds 3 (Aaronson 33, Rodrigo 37, Harrison 69) bt Chelsea 0; West Ham 0 lost to Brighton 2 (Mac Allister 22-pen, Trossard 66); Newcastle 3 (Almiron 28, Wilson 39, Trippier 54) drew with Manchester City 3 (Gundogan 5, Haaland 60, Silva 64).

Bundesliga: Bochum 0 lost to Bayern Munich 7 (Sane 4, de Ligt 25, Coman 33, Mane 42, 60-pen, Gamboa 69-og, Gnabry 76); Frankfurt 1 (Kamada 72) drew with Cologne 1 (Thielmann 82).

Saturday: LaLiga: Celta Vigo 1 (Aspas 23-pen) lost to Real Madrid 4 (Benzema 14-pen, Modric 42, Vinicius 56, Valverde 66).

Serie A: Inter Milan 3 (Martinez 35, Calhanoglu 52, Correa 82) bt Spezia 0.

'Badru' was one of the last living greats

Banerjee, who passed away on Saturday, led India at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics

TRIBUTE

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

Samar Banerjee, who captained India to a fourth-place finish at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, is no more. The 92-year-old footballer was admitted to a city hospital with age-related complications on July 27. His condition kept deteriorating as he contracted COVID-19 and breathed his last in the early hours of Saturday.

Widely known by his nickname 'Badru', he was greatly revered by all generations of footballers and supporters. Born on January 30, 1930, Badru began his career with Milan Samity before joining Bally Protiva, a club in his native town in Howrah district.

He joined Mohun Bagan in 1952, after a brief stint with the famous Bengal-Nagpur Railway Club. He was also brilliant in studies and enrolled as a student of medicine in a prominent medical college in the city. But he opted to give it up after three years of study for his first love – football.

His exploits with Bagan soon earned him a place in the Indian team. His academic and leadership qualities fetched him the captaincy of the Indian team that reached the semifinals at the Melbourne Olympics.

India took the fourth spot losing the semifinal to Yugoslavia (1-4) and the third-place match to Bulgaria (0-3). That remains India's best-ever performance at the Olympics or other world events.

Badru became a Bagan stalwart and stayed with the club for eight seasons before hanging up his boots at the age of 30. He took up coaching and went on to manage the Bengal team, which won the Santosh Trophy in 1961.

Titan: 'Badru' strode the Indian football scene like a colossus and was revered by all generations. • FILE PHOTO

Nihal Sarin joins Arjun, Raunak in second spot

Robson in the lead with 4.5 points

ABU DHABI MASTERS

SPORTS BUREAU

A victorious Nihal Sarin joined compatriots Arjun Erigaisi and Raunak Sadhwani (four points each) in the joint second spot after USA's Ray Robson took the lead at 4.5 points from five rounds of the Abu Dhabi Masters chess tournament in Abu Dhabi on Saturday.

Arjun in drawn game

Fourth seed Arjun drew with seventh-seeded Jordeen van Foreest, Raunak held fifth seed Amin Baseem while B. Adhiban proved equal to a struggling top seed Wang Hao.

In the only decisive game over the top-10 boards, Robson stopped Nisipeanu in 45 moves.

Nihal won on the 11th board after facing Armenian Artur Davtyan for 62 moves. After a day's rest, Arjun faces Raunak.

The results (fifth round): Arjun Erigaisi (4) drew with Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 4); Ray Robson (USA, 4.5) bt Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu (Ger, 3.5); Amin Bassem (Egy, 3.5) drew with Raunak Sadhwani (4); B. Adhiban (3.5) drew with Wang Hao (Chn, 3.5); Salem Saleh (UAE, 3.5) drew with Leon Mendonca (3.5); Harsha Bharathakoti (3.5) drew with David Anton (Esp, 3.5).

Amin Tabatabaei (Iri, 3.5) drew with P. Iniyan (3.5); Nihal Sarin (4) bt Artur Davtyan (Arm, 3); Aryan Chopra (3.5) drew with Sandipan Chanda (3.5).

Arjun Kalyan (3.5) drew with S.P. Sethuraman (3.5); Abhijeet Gupta (3) drew with Mukhiddin Madaminov (Uzb, 3); Siddharth Jagadeesh (2.5) lost to M. Karthikeyan (3.5).

FIFA ban: govt. proposes to end CoA mandate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

In a desperate move to get the FIFA ban on AIFF revoked, the central government on Sunday moved an application in the Supreme Court, seeking an end to the "mandate" of the Committee of Administrators (CoA), as demanded by the world governing body.

The sports ministry's move, a day before a crucial hearing of the top court, can be seen as an attempt to salvage the FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup, scheduled to be held in October. The world body had, on August 15, imposed a ban on AIFF due to "third party interference" and said that the women's age-group showpiece "cannot currently be held in India as planned".

The government, in its application, has virtually accepted all the demands made by the FIFA.

It, however, said that the ousted Praful Patel-led dispensation should be excluded from the AIFF.

Mohd. Sporting proves too strong for Jamshedpur FC

DURAND CUP

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

Mohammedan Sporting sailed past a youthful Jamshedpur FC side 3-0 in a Group A league match to record its second successive win in the 131st edition of the Durand Cup on Sunday.

M. Faslurahman, Abhishek Halder and Sheikh Faiaz found the target once each for Sporting. Sporting dictated terms in the opening half before scoring a goal off a corner in the 38th minute. Sheik Faiaz's floater into the box was headed by the tall defender Sairuatkima. Jamshedpur goalkeeper Mohit Dhami managed to block the attempt but Faslurahman, lurking close by, nodded the rebound home. After the break, the Sporting challenge proved overwhelming for the inexperienced boys of Jamshedpur's reserve team. Sporting doubled the lead in the 71st minute when substitute Abhishek Halder scored off a nice chip hoodwinking Mohit Dhami, who charged out to block the attempt. Faiaz sealed it in the 74th, scoring off a through pass from Marcus Joseph.

Sealing it: Faiaz nets Sporting's third goal. • DEBASISH BHADURI

At Guwahati, captain Lallawmkima's brace helped Army Green record a 3-1 win over NorthEast United FC in its opening Group D match. This was NEUFC's second reverse after the 0-6 drubbing at the hands of Odisha FC.

The results:

Group A: Mohd. Sporting 3 (Faslurahman 38, Halder 71, Faiaz 74) bt Jamshedpur FC 0.

Group D: Army Green 3 (Lallawmkima 10, 55, Somit 24) bt NEUFC 1 (Dipu Mirdha 90+1).

Wolves tame Bulls, clinch title

Register a 7-2 win in the final of the inaugural Grand Prix Badminton League

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

KGF Wolves defeated Mandya Bulls 7-2 in the final to win the inaugural Grand Prix Badminton League held at the KBA courts on Sunday.

The results: KGF Wolves bt Mandya Bulls 7-2 [Gloria Vijaya Kumar bt Ananya Praveen 15-11, 15-11; Hemanth M. Gowda & Prakash Raj lost to Ashith Surya & Sai Pratheek (Trump) 7-15, 15-11, 14-15; Naren S. Iyer bt Aniruddh Deshpande 15-13, 15-3; V. Suhas & P. Amrutha bt M. Madhusudhan & Ruth Misha Vinod 15-8, 15-14; Hemanth & Prakash & Suhas (Trump) bt Ashith & Sai & Madhusudhan 21-15]. **Player-of-the-tie:** Suhas; **Player-of-the-tournament:** Hemanth.

Super Sunday: The Wolves players, with P.V. Sindhu, after their triumph. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Lakshya and Prannoy spearhead challenge

Sindhu takes injury time-out for first time in a decade

BWF WORLDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
TOKYO

With the injured P.V. Sindhu missing out for the first time in a decade, the onus will be on young Lakshya Sen and H.S. Prannoy to spearhead India's challenge at the BWF World Championships, starting here on Monday.

Sindhu – with five medals, including gold in 2019 – is out owing to an ankle injury suffered en route to a maiden CWG title.

Trump card: Lakshya is brimming with confidence • AP

Strong presence

India has not returned empty-handed from the Worlds since the 2011 edition.

It was Srikanth and Lakshya, who had ensured India's presence on the podium in 2021 when they finished with a silver and a bronze, respectively. It was a depleted field in 2021 with Japan's Kento Momota, and the Indonesian duo of Jonatan Christie and Anthony Ginting missing out. But there has been no such withdrawal this time.

At the same time, the expectations from the Indian male shuttlers will also be high, given their exploits in recent months.

Brimming with confidence following his CWG gold on debut, Lakshya has been on a sensational run this season, and will go into the top event as one of the favourites.

Lakshya's stock has been rising ever since he returned from Huelva in December, winning a maiden Super 500 title at the India Open, finishing with a silver at the All England Championships, before joining hands with Srikanth and Prannoy to earn India its maiden Thomas Cup win in May.

Prannoy has been one of the most consistent players on the circuit, with a run of quarterfinals, three semifinals and a runner-up finish this season.

Srikanth, 12th seed, was sensational in Bangkok and it was his unbeaten run that played a huge role in India's Thomas Cup win. B. Sai Praneeth, a 2019 World Championships bronze medallist, too, is in the fray and will open against Taiwanese Chou Tien Chen.

All eyes will also be on Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, who claimed India's first gold medal in men's doubles at the CWG earlier this month.

Low-brow Saina

Away from the spotlight will be a certain Saina Nehwal, who was once the cynosure of all eyes. The decorated shuttler has a silver and bronze from the Worlds but, of late, has looked a pale shadow of herself, following a series of below-par performances due to both injuries and lack of form.

Mystics ride on Manish's knock

Blasters survive a Taha scare to put it past Tigers

MAHARAJA TROPHY

SPORTS REPORTER
BENGALURU

Captain Manish Pandey's unbeaten 57 helped Gulbarga Mystics grab a seven-run win over Mysuru Warriors in the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 here on Sunday.

In a rain-interrupted match at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Gulbarga emerged on top via the VJD method. For Mysuru, Shreyas Gopal fought hard with 32 off 16 balls, but this team fell just short of the revised target of 110 in 11 overs.

Batting first, Mystics rode on Manish's entertaining 27-ball knock, which contained four sixes and three fours. Rain brought the innings to a close with Gulbarga's score at 148 for four in 17.3 overs.

Warriors batters Karun Nair (3), Nihal Ullal (6) and S. Shivraj (8) were the first three wickets to fall in the space of 19 deliveries, leaving Gulbarga as the favourite.

Shreyas on song

Shreyas smashed three sixes in the eighth over, bringing the equation down to 32 off the final three overs.

Shubhang Hegde's dismissal for six in the next over slowed down Warriors, and Shreyas' wicket in the 11th over was the final nail in the coffin.

The entertainer: Manish's unbeaten 57 off 27 balls was laced with four sixes and three fours. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In another outing, Bengaluru Blasters sneaked past Hubli Tigers by two runs.

Terrific innings

Chasing 172, Hubli looked on course thanks to a 47-ball 71 by Mohammed Taha, but Bengaluru managed to hang on.

The scores: Gulbarga Mystics 148/4 in 17.3 overs (Manish Pandey 57 n.o., Jeswath Acharya 34, Krishnan Shrijith 30) bt Mysuru Warriors 102/7 in 11 overs (Shreyas Gopal 32, Pavan Deshpande 25), by seven runs via VJD method

Bengaluru Blasters 171/8 in 20 overs (S. Rakshith 50, Aniruddha Joshi 33, Sharan Goud 3/24) bt Hubli Tigers 168/7 in 20 overs (Mohammed Taha 71, Tushar Singh 25, J. Suchith 3/20).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

BDFA Super Division league from tomorrow

The 2022-23 edition of the BDFA Super Division league championship will commence from Tuesday. In all, 20 teams are set to participate, including three new outfits – Roots FC, FC Agniputhra and Sporting Club Bengaluru.

Kemp scores a dozen against Rebel's Women's FC

Kemp FC thrashed Rebel's Women's FC 12-1 in the Karnataka Women's League football tournament on Sunday.

The results: Kemp FC 12 (Lalnunsiami 3, 36, 39, Lalbiak Diki 5, Lalrinmuani 16, 33, Elizabeth Vanaikmawii 48, 52, Sunita Sarkar 63, 69, Trea Menon 65, 77) bt Rebel's Women's FC 1 (Kajal 71); Misaka United 5 (Nisilia Majaw 27, 47, 67, Simran Gurung 52, 85) bt Roots FC 0.

Warriors too strong for Leo

Warriors SC hammered Leo SC 15-1 in the DS Murthy & Radha Murthy Memorial hockey on Sunday.

The results: Bengaluru Blues bt Chinmaya Vidyalaya-A 9-1; Warriors SC bt Leo SC 15-1; JFHA drew with Decathlon Hockey 4-4; Leo SC bt Sunday Boys-B 4-3.

Primrose HC bt Anglo India HC 8-5; Decathlon Hockey bt Warriors SC 12-2; JFHA bt Sunday Boys-B 14-0; Falcon HC bt Anglo Indian HC 13-3.

Krish wins

Krish. • R. RAGU

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

Sixth-seeded Krish Tyagi of Karnataka clinched the boys' title, defeating top seed Denim Yadav of Madhya Pradesh 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, in the final of the Tennishub National junior under-18 clay court tennis championship here on Saturday.

In the girls' singles summit clash, Vaishnavi Adkar beat top seed Suhitha Maruri of Karnataka 6-3, 6-1.

IN BRIEF

Former Mysore State footballer Kalimulla passes away

BENGALURU

Former Mysore State footballer Kalimulla Khan passed away in Bengaluru on Sunday. He was 80.

Kalimulla, who was active in the 1950s and '60s, also represented HAL and Railways in the Santosh Trophy. The Karnataka State Football Association condoled his death.

Neeraj can compete in Lausanne if fit: Sumariwala

NEW DELHI

Olympic javelin champion Neeraj Chopra, who pulled out of the recent CWG due to a minor injury, can compete in the Lausanne Diamond League Meeting on August 26 if he is "medically fit", AFI president Adille Sumariwalla said. Neeraj figures in the list of competitors for the Lausanne leg of the Diamond League Meeting on Aug. 26. But he is yet to take a call on his participation. "Neeraj will participate in (Lausanne) if he is declared medically fit," said Sumariwalla on Saturday. PTI

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